

## CAR 96

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## MAGAZINE

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PLUS: 24 pages of outdoor pursuits

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# Defiant Major fights on for a year



Major: "Don't think I'm going to surrender"

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR

A BATTERED but defiant John Major declared yesterday that he would lead the Conservatives on a long haul into the next General Election and beyond.

Thursday's local election results were among the worst for any governing party, leaving the Tories wiped out in several parts of the country. But the outcome was still not the cataclysm that would have had MPs calling for Mr Major to go, and many concluded that any lingering doubts over his future had been removed.

Instead, they were arguing either that Mr Major, with his proven campaigning skills, represented the

best hope of turning round Labour's massive lead, or that any attempt to force a change would lead the party into a possibly terminal civil war.

The results also convinced them that the Prime Minister cannot choose to go to the country until the last possible moment next May — although events may yet force an earlier poll.

Mr Major acknowledged that as he prepared his party for a year-long campaign, saying: "We have taken difficult decisions. We have had the political pain. The rewards are on their way. I intend to stay here until the rewards are there."

He then began to sketch out the battleground on which he hopes the Conservatives will turn the tide. He disclosed that he hopes to close the

gap with Labour by highlighting the differences between the two parties with fresh policies on welfare and long-term care, education and law and order. He also intends to use the European issue, which has caused him so much internal trouble, and the constitution to expose what he calls Labour's threat to the nation state.

But as Mr Major went on to the offensive, senior MPs rejected ministers' claims that the Tories were on the way back. Sir George Gardiner, from the Right, called the results pretty appalling and Quentin Davies, from the Left, described them as extremely depressing.

There were few signs of a truce on Europe, with rightwingers urging Mr Major to adopt a harder

line to bring the party into tune with public opinion. Ministers' demands for an end to squabbling were countered by calls for the party to adopt more right-wing policies.

As the final results were declared yesterday, it was confirmed that the Conservatives had lost well over half the seats they contested. They lost 567 seats, while Labour gained 459 and the Liberal Democrats 147. Overall, Labour won 43 per cent of the vote, the Conservatives 27 per cent and the Liberal Democrats 26. Paddy Ashdown's strategists voiced delight at evidence that the electorate was becoming more adept in tactical voting and predicted a substantial increase in their current tally of 25 MPs at the next election.

Tony Blair, who warned his party

against complacency, attacked the Conservatives for their "arrogant" response to the vote. He described the result as "spectacular" and said that Labour had taken a huge step on the road to victory. One of his sweetest successes came at Basildon, as Essex Man deserted the Tories; others included Hertsmere, Southampton, North Hertfordshire, Rochdale, Trafford and Oldham.

For Mr Ashdown the prize was once true-blue Tunbridge Wells, and he also captured Wokingham, Hastings, Poole and Woking. The Conservatives were wiped out in 21 councils, including Oxford, Harlow, Slough, Stevenage, Hereford and Manchester, and there are now 50 authorities across the country with no Conservative members.

In a speech in Swansea last night, Mr Ashdown said that the Tories had lost their moral authority to govern. "This Government has now ended as an effective force. It is dead on its feet. It has no leader worth the name, no direction which is detectable and no purpose to serve."

But Mr Major insisted that the benefits of economic recovery would soon be felt. He told the BBC the outlook was the best for many years. "Don't think I am going to throw it away, because I'm not. And don't think I'm going to surrender it to anyone else — because I'm not."

Election results and analysis, pages 8, 9  
Kenneth Baker, page 18  
Leading article, page 19

## Tug-of-love Zulu boy sent home to his family

By JOANNA BALE

A TEN-YEAR-OLD Zulu boy left Britain for South Africa last night to be reunited with his natural parents after the white woman he had come to regard as his mother lost an extraordinary custody battle to keep him.

There were emotional scenes at the Official Solicitor's office in London as Sifiso Mahlangu bade farewell to his white 'adoptive' mother, Salome Stopford, 50, and two of her three daughters.

The boy was then handed over to Mrs Stopford's former maid, Selina Mahlangu, 30, who had arrived in London from Johannesburg earlier in the day. Mother and son then boarded a BA flight to Johannesburg, where they will be reunited today with the boy's father, Charles, and sister.

Before the plane took off, he pleaded: "I really don't want to go. I want to stay in Britain with my family and friends. It isn't fair that the courts have not listened to me."

Sifiso has been brought up by Mrs Stopford since he was a baby and his mother worked as her maid in South Africa. While his parents lived in servants' quarters, he stayed in the five-bedroom house on a seven-acre estate in Brakspan, near Johannesburg. Mrs Stopford said: "I just wanted this child to have everything my kids had. He was such a dear little thing and we loved him so much."

Mrs Stopford's broker husband died in 1991, and when she decided a year later to move to London, she offered to take Sifiso, then six, with her. The Mahlangus said they agonised over the decision but could not turn down the offer of a good education in a peaceful environment, especially as in 1992 South Africa

was in political turmoil. "My wife had no idea where England was or how far away it was, but we thought we would be closing the door for the child of we refused him this chance," Mr Mahlangu said.

The couple claim that letters and calls from London dried up in 1994, promised visits were not forthcoming, and that early in 1995 he learnt that Mrs Stopford had begun adoption proceedings.

Mrs Stopford says Sifiso's that parents showed little interest in the boy until after a magazine offered them money for their story and encouraged them to fight for custody.

Westminster social services became aware of Sifiso's circumstances in 1994. They opposed the adoption and Sifiso was made a ward of court.

Mrs Stopford says that social workers in one report accused her of treating Sifiso like a "much beloved pet" and sent a social worker to South Africa to talk to his family. Mr Mahlangu contacted the Black Sash, a South African civil rights organisation, which put him in touch with a lawyer and paid his legal bills.

Last year the High Court ordered that the boy should be returned to South Africa to rediscover his Zulu roots after a two-year rehabilitation period, during which he was to visit his natural parents and prepare himself for living with them permanently.

Mrs Stopford appealed but in March this year, the Appeal Court ruled that it was in his best interests to return immediately. Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Neill came to their "difficult and anxious" decision after acknowledging that it could cause him psychological harm — a psychiatrist said that Sifiso may never recover from the trauma of being separated from his white "mother".

The Appeal Court ruling was upheld by three law lords



A tearful Salome Stopford clutching Sifiso Mahlangu after one of many court hearings in her fight to keep the boy

at a private hearing last Friday and Mrs Stopford was ordered to send Sifiso back immediately. Yesterday her barrister, Allan Levy, QC, made a final attempt to stay the order by attempting to take the case to the European. But two senior judges rejected a direct request from the President of the European Commission on Human Rights to postpone

sending him back. Shortly after two o'clock, Mrs Stopford left the Official Solicitor's office in tears after handing Sifiso over. The boy had taken all his possessions including an orange bicycle and various toys. He left an hour later with his natural mother but without the toys: he had been told that he could take only a few clothes.

Mrs Stopford said last night: "I am heartbroken. I have lost my son and my daughters their little brother. It is all so unjust because he does not want to go."

Sifiso last saw his parents last summer when he stayed with them for a month. He said afterwards: "They live in one room and I had to sleep in the same bed as my mother

and sister, while my father slept on the floor. I had to bathe in a bucket and use an outside toilet. And when I went to visit my grandmother, I had to sleep on a cow dung floor, look after cattle and fetch water from a well. I prefer my home and family in London because it is nicer."

Families' battle, page 5

## Outcry after Cantona kick fan is freed

By RICHARD DUCE

MAGISTRATES, police officers and MPs last night condemned the release of Matthew Simmons, the football hooligan, after just 20 hours of a seven-day jail sentence imposed for attacking a solicitor in court.

But the Prison Service, which authorised the release, said that it would have been unlawful to hold Simmons longer. Simmons, 21, was jailed for contempt after an attack on the solicitor who had successfully prosecuted him for goading the footballer, Eric Cantona, who responded with a kung fu-style kick.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, described the release of Simmons after such a short period in jail as "risible" and said the magistrates could have imposed a tougher penalty. "This was a serious assault on a prosecutor," he said.

Like any prisoner serving

under 12 months, Simmons was eligible for automatic unconditional release after serving half his sentence which would have meant leaving jail tomorrow.

Because the 1982 Criminal Justice Act requires the Prison Service to release on the preceding Friday anyone whose sentence ends on a Saturday or Sunday, he was freed from High Down jail in Surrey yesterday. The Prison Service would have been acting unlawfully to have held him until Tuesday, the next day on which inmates are released.

Simmons was jailed by Croydon magistrates at 3pm on Thursday for an "obvious and serious" contempt when he launched an astonishing courtroom assault on Jeffrey McCann, the prosecuting solicitor.

Continued on page 2, col 1

Leading article, page 19

## THE TIMES

With more than 1.6 million readers a day, *The Times* recorded the highest increase in readership of any broadsheet national newspaper in the six months to March. Average readership was up by 110,000 a day, an increase of 7 per cent. Readership of *The Daily Telegraph* fell by more than 200,000 (8 per cent) and of *The Independent* by 162,000 (17.5 per cent).

## Chilly prospects for Bank Holiday

By ADAM FRESCO

TENS OF THOUSANDS of Britons headed abroad yesterday for the May Day Bank Holiday weekend.

For those staying at home, temperatures were not expected to exceed 10C (50F), and motoring organisations last night reported heavy traffic on all the major routes, but no large jams.

Keith Betton, a spokesman

for the Association of British Travel Agents, said about 250,000 people were going abroad. "Spain and Portugal are favourite destinations and many people are also taking a city break, with Paris, Amsterdam, Venice and Rome popular spots."

Stena, the ferry company, said it would be busier than normal, carrying about 100,000 on its continental routes this weekend and about

50,000 on its Irish Sea crossings. The AA expected nearly five million drivers to take to the roads over the weekend.

Lynn Healey, a spokeswoman, said: "If it does turn out nice over the weekend then you can expect heavy traffic to the coastal areas." But forecasters are predicting an Arctic chill, with some showers.

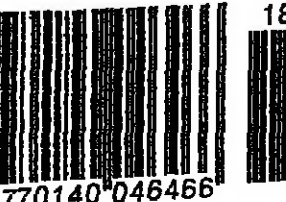
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## 5,000 jobs go in insurance merger

Up to 5,000 jobs are to go in the biggest shake-up in the insurance industry for more than a decade after Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance announced plans to merge.

The new company — Royal Sun Alliance — will be the biggest general insurer in Britain, with 16 per cent of the market. It will be twice the size of its nearest rival, General Accident.

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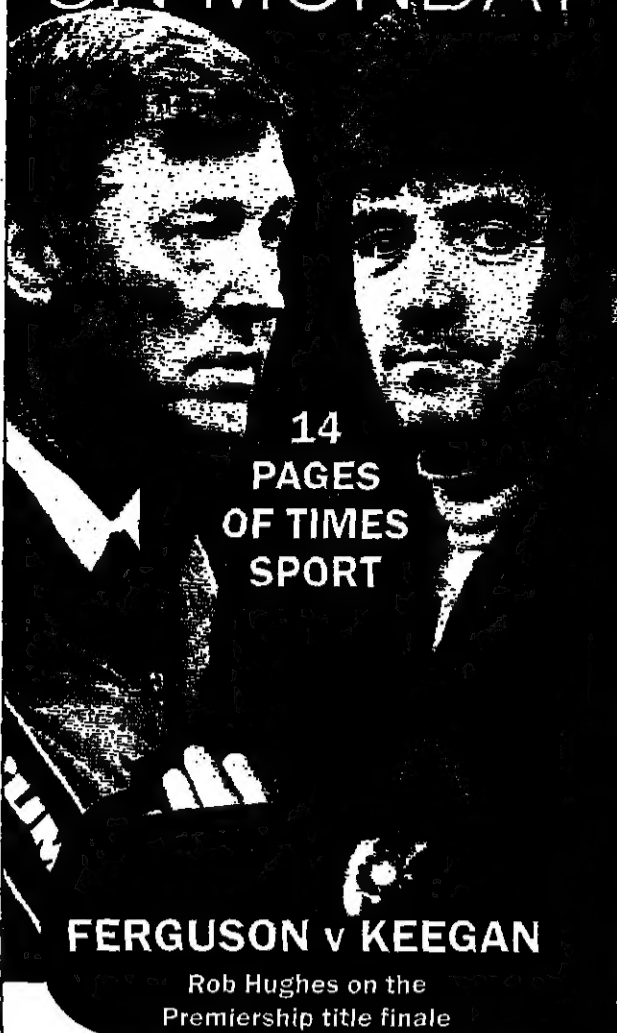
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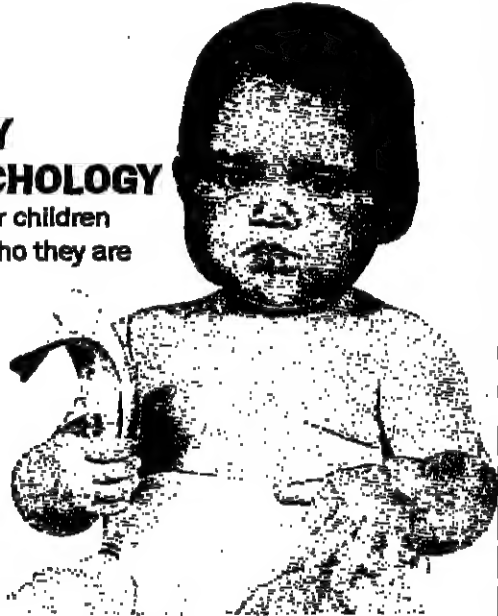
Brewed under the influence  
(of our great grandfather)

BREWED BY THE CHARLES WELLS FAMILY  
BREWERY, BEDFORDSHIRE, EST. 1876.



THE TIMES  
ON MONDAY14  
PAGES  
OF TIMES  
SPORT

## FERGUSON v KEEGAN

Rob Hughes on the  
Premiership title finalePLUS: Full guide to Bank Holiday racing,  
and Oliver Holt on the San Marino Grand PrixBABY  
PSYCHOLOGYHow our children  
know who they areTHE MODEL  
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make it as a modern  
British heroinePLUS: MATTHEW PARRIS,  
COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR

## Beef farmers take Europe to court

By MICHAEL HORNSBY  
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS and meat exporters launched a legal challenge to the European Union's ban on British beef yesterday. Their High Court action came as the Government's planned slaughter of cattle over 30 months old ran into deeper trouble.

Mr Justice Turner said the challenge required a ruling from the European Court of Justice on whether the export ban, imposed after the BSE scare, was disproportionate and a misuse of power under the Treaty of Rome. The challenge was initiated by the National Farmers' Union, but the judge allowed the International Meat

Trade Association and the British Association of Sheep Exporters to make their own appeals because of the knock-on effect on all meat exports.

The NFU will lodge its appeal with the European court next week, arguing that the ban, which has halted exports worth £600 million a year, was illegally imposed in an attempt to allay consumer panic and not because of a scientifically proven risk to human health.

At home, the cattle cull may not get fully under way for a further week or more. Livestock auctioneers are threatening legal action because they say the scheme is weighted unfairly against them. Supermarkets have

caused further delay by refusing to take beef from abattoirs that also slaughter the older cattle.

Martin Burt, a farmer in North Yorkshire who chairs the NFU's livestock committee, said: "It is frustrating. We should be up and running by now, but nothing is happening. The Ministry of Agriculture is behaving like Pontius Pilate and washing its hands of the whole mess."

"We need a central co-ordinating body, such as the Meat and Livestock Commission, to take charge of the allocation of animals for slaughter, otherwise we could face chaos if everyone offers their animals at once. But the Government says it is up to

the industry to sort out its own problems."

The £630 million slaughter scheme should have begun on Wednesday. The Intervention Board, the Government agency administering it, has licensed 105 auction markets as collection points and 44 abattoirs to slaughter them.

Scotland yesterday became the only place in Britain to report the slaughter of animals over 30 months, at an abattoir in Larkhall. Slaughterhouses and markets elsewhere said they still had no clear instructions.

Auctioneers are furious because they calculate that farmers will get up to £100 an animal more in compensation if they send over-age bullocks

directly to an abattoir than if they send them to slaughter via an auction market and are paid liveweight.

Jim Watson, managing director of Midland Marts, which owns the Banbury market in Oxfordshire, the biggest in the country, said: "This is grossly unfair to auction markets which are already in dire financial straits. We are taking legal advice and are considering slapping an injunction on the Ministry of Agriculture unless they agree to top up the liveweight payment."

Tony Baldry, the junior Agriculture Minister, said there were still many logistical problems to overcome. The biggest bottleneck was limited rendering plant capacity,

Crown rule  
let Howard  
off hook  
over LewisBy RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD was able to avoid admitting the wrongful dismissal of Derek Lewis as Director-General of the Prison Service because of a legal technicality. However, the Home Office faces a bill of about £300,000 in compensation and costs after agreeing a payoff for Mr Lewis.

A letter from the Treasury Solicitors to Mr Lewis's lawyers said that the Home Office could not admit sacking him, in breach of his contract, "due to the constitutional position of the Crown". It added: "It is accepted that, but for that position, your client's employment was terminated otherwise than in accordance with the terms of his contract. Accordingly... my client is willing to compensate Mr Lewis upon the basis of damages for wrongful dismissal."

The huge size of the bill to the taxpayer emerged yesterday when it was confirmed that Mr Lewis had won a payoff of £220,000. The Government must meet its own costs and Mr Lewis's legal bills of about £50,000 under the terms of the settlement. It has also promised to pay him an additional £20,000 if the Irish Revenue rules that he is not entitled to receive £30,000 of his payout tax-free.



Mary King, who won a team gold at the European three-day event championships in Rome last September when secretly pregnant, showed off her daughter, Emily, aged three months, at Badminton yesterday. Sport, Page 43

## Attacker free after a night

Continued from page 1  
citor, Mr McCann had successfully prosecuted Simmons for goading Cantona, the Manchester United footballer, into his now infamous lung fu-style kick at the Crystal Palace ground, south London, in January last year.

The Magistrates' Association said prison governors could have kept Simmons in jail for a second night. It added that a recent Home Office directive said prisoners could be released on Saturdays — and expressed surprise that Highdown authorities had not taken advantage of it. Chief Superintendent Brian Mackenzie, president of the Police Superintendents Association, said Simmons's re-

lease highlighted the "judicious" way the criminal justice system had developed. "It sends the wrong signals and a lot of people must just think it is a nonsense."

Lady Olga Maitland, Conservative MP for Sutton and Cheam, said she would be surprised to have been released so early and was still considering an appeal against his conviction for threatening words and behaviour.

Neither Mr McCann, 56, nor his wife Mavis would comment on Simmons's early release. However a family friend when told of the news, said: "Oh, no. What, this morning? It is incredible."

Back at the family home in Thornton Heath, south London, his mother Jackie and brother David refused to comment. Simmons stayed away from the terrace house but spoke to his solicitor, Sonia Simms, on the telephone. She said he was surprised to have been released so early and was still considering an appeal against his conviction for threatening words and behaviour.

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Times names  
cub reporters

TODAY 1015, The Times's weekly magazine for young readers, introduces the six winners of its Young Reporters Competition. Each will have the opportunity to join journalists from The Times and to write for 1015. The winners and their chosen subjects are: David Freedland, 14, from Hamilton, Strathclyde (politics); Lowri Lwyd, 12, from Luxembourg (foreign news); Alexa Kellow, 13, from West Sussex (home news); Zoe Keniston, 15, from Edinburgh (books); Ben White, 12, from South Harrow, London (sport) and Emma Wales, 15, from Clwyd (music). Zoe Keniston's first article appears today in 1015, inside the Magazine.

Thousands are lottery  
addicts, says Camelot

Camelot admitted for the first time yesterday that thousands of people could be addicted to playing the National Lottery. Louise White, public affairs manager for the lottery operator, told a conference in Edinburgh that a small percentage of people "are unfortunately spending more than they should" on the draw.

After her speech, she accepted that even a tiny proportion of players could run into many thousands. She also agreed that there was greater concern about scratchcards, with 18 million instant games sold weekly.

## New top judge soon

A new Lord Chief Justice will be appointed within weeks after the announcement that Lord Taylor of Gosforth is suffering from cancer and is to retire early. As tributes to Lord Taylor flowed in yesterday, Lord Justice Rose, 59, the only other serving judge who has publicly attacked Michael Howard over his tougher sentencing plans, was being strongly tipped to succeed him.

## Al Fayed acquires Viva!

Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, has bought the ailing all-women radio station Viva for £3 million. It follows his acquisition of the satirical magazine Punch, which is due to be relaunched in September. Stewart Stevens, the chairman of Mr Al Fayed's Liberty publishing company, said it would invest in Viva to make it a "profitable and successful London-based radio station".

## Burns victim has baby

Debbie Garbutt, 32, of Loftus, Cleveland, who is seriously ill in hospital after a house fire that killed her daughter, gave birth to a 3lb 3oz girl by Caesarean section. The fire left Mrs Garbutt with 70 per cent burns and her condition in hospital was described yesterday as critical. Her daughter, Jade, aged four, died in the fire on Monday. The baby is said to be doing well.

## Sex assault GP jailed

Dr Magdy Omar, a medical adviser to the Egyptian Government, was jailed for six months by Wood Green Crown Court for sexually assaulting a patient. He had denied the charge. Omar, 50, of Southacre, northwest London, was the sole practitioner at Hampstead Medical Centre, which closed six weeks ago. He now faces a disciplinary hearing of the General Medical Council.

## Players deny corruption

The footballers Bruce Grobbelaar, John Fashanu and Hans Segers yesterday denied charges of attempting to fix match results. Appearing with them at Winchester Crown Court was Heng Suan, a Malaysian also known as Richard Lim. The full trial, expected to last six weeks, is likely to start in January.

## Rhodes to the City

Gary Rhodes, 35, the television chef regarded as the driving force behind the revival of classic British cooking, is to join Gardner Merchant, the contract caterers whose clients include hospitals, industrial canteens and sports events. He is to open a restaurant for the company in the City of London later this year.

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Margaret Page poses for Brenford Bonadie's camera, left. His wife then joins her for another photograph, in which the water can be seen building up behind them. Five seconds later the two women were swept to their deaths

## Pictures capture last moments before women drowned

By TIM JONES

TWO holiday snapshots showed yesterday how a freak wave rushed towards two unsuspecting tourists at a Caribbean waterfall. They were taken by a husband who saw his wife and her best friend swept to their deaths only seconds later.

Josephine Bonadie, 58, and Margaret Page, 48, were halfway through their three-week holiday in St Vincent when the 20ft wave crashed down the Trinity Falls and carried them away.

Brenford Bonadie, 65, whose wife of 36 years was buried yesterday, said: "At first it was so calm and beautiful and the next minute all this water came from nowhere. It all happened in just a few seconds. All I could do was watch them being thrown into the water."

His brother, Winston, 52, ran to summon help. The bodies of the two women were found later down-

stream. "We had been having a wonderful day," he said. "Margaret went and stood on a rock with the waterfall behind her. I snapped a picture of her and then Jo went to join her. They sat down on the rock and Margaret took her hat off. They were both grinning and looking really happy and I took another snap. I didn't notice the water was suddenly surging. I hadn't heard a thing, not even a rumble. There was no warning. It was as if the water had been hiding behind a rock and suddenly surged over the top and dropped right behind them." His wife managed to swim to the edge, but could not

hold on to the slippery rocks below the 150ft falls. Still wearing her sunglasses, she was dragged down. "It all happened so quickly. There was no time for any of us to move before the water lashed down on them," Mr Bonadie said.

British Embassy officials told him that the accident had happened because of heavy overnight rain in the mountains. "When I was a kid in St Vincent and it rained heavily the water used to come from the mountains and fill the rivers," Mr Bonadie said. "But the water would be dirty, so there was some warning. This time the water was clear." Mr Bonadie lived



with his wife in a bungalow called Josephine's Hideaway, in Southampton. They have two grown-up sons.

Mrs Bonadie and Mrs Page, described by Mr Bonadie as "like two peas in a pod", had been close friends for about ten years and had

worked at the same company in Southampton before Mrs Bonadie left to set up her own company. They were both excited by the prospect of the holiday, Mr Bonadie said. "Jo had been to the Caribbean before, but Margaret had never been, so it was a really big thing for her."

Mrs Page, from Eastleigh, sent a postcard to her neighbour, Diana Mills, the day before she died. Mrs Mills, 42, received it three days after hearing of the deaths, which occurred on Tuesday last week.

"I had already cried over Margaret when I first heard she'd gone, but this just brought the tears

flooding back," she said. "It was eerie to think she had posted it only the day before she died." The card read: "Wow — what a place — we are staying in a lovely villa overlooking the whole of Kingstown, St Vincent. Hope to go to Mustique for a couple of days — See you when I get back — probably before this card arrives!! Luv Margaret."

Mrs Page, who had a grown-up son, had been company secretary at Zillwoods Signs for more than 30 years. David Zillwood, a director, said: "Everyone here is devastated. Although Josephine left us, she was always popping in to see Margaret. They were inseparable."

## Judge bars male gay couple from adopting child

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A HOMOSEXUAL couple's request to adopt a five-year-old disabled boy they have spent 18 months caring for was quashed by a judge yesterday. The refusal, despite backing for the couple by social workers and a lawyer acting for the boy, is believed to set a precedent in Scotland.

The 32-year-old male nurse and his 35-year-old partner of ten years, who cannot be named for legal reasons, were refused permission in a written judgment by Lord Gill in the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

The two men have fostered the boy, who is severely disabled mentally and physically, since November 1994. He has been in the care of Manchester City Council since the age of two months.

Lord Gill said: "The unusual nature of this proposal makes it particularly important that the court should consider whether the child's emotional and psychological needs will be adequately met at each stage of his childhood."

The court heard that the boy's mother, who lives in Manchester and who is not married to the boy's father, has taken no interest in the adoption proceedings and appears to want no further contact with her son.

Last night Jim Murphy, the director of Manchester social services, said the boy would remain with the couple and an appeal was being considered. The child has been with the couple for a considerable length of time and with the full knowledge and agreement of the natural mother. The child

has thrived and made excellent progress. We are satisfied that the child is in a happy, loving and safe environment and, with the child's best interests as our main concern, the placement will continue."

The men, who first approached Strathclyde Region in 1988, were said by social workers to have "a close and loving relationship with the child". The social workers had no hesitation in recommending them as adoptive parents.

The application was made in the name of the nurse, because Scottish law allows only married couples and single people to adopt. He was planning to give up his job and to act as a full-time carer for the boy with the support of his more highly paid partner.

Peter Gillam, the Solicitor-Advocate acting for the nurse, told Lord Gill that as both the social workers and the curator appointed to safeguard the interests of the child supported the application, it should be treated as unopposed and granted.

The curator, an advocate qualified in psychology, said the homosexual relationship formed "no bar to the desirability of the adoption", which he recommended.

Lord Gill said the case raised the principle of whether the court should sanction the adoption of a child by a homosexual couple. He acknowledged that the boy received a high standard of physical care but the question of whether the proposal for homosexuals to adopt the child was within the scope of Scottish legislation had not been properly considered.

## Court puts monks' fish traps back in business

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE new owner of an historic castle in Cumbria won his fight in the High Court yesterday to be allowed to continue catching salmon in 12th century fish traps thought to have been built by monks.

The traps, known as coops, are at Corby Castle near Carlisle and are believed to have been constructed by the monks of Wertheral Priory on the opposite bank of the River Eden. After the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII, the coops became part of the castle estate owned by the Howard family.

Dr Edward Haughey, who bought the castle from the Howards in April 1994, repaired the coops and a sandstone weir near by. But the National Rivers Authority objected to the work and tried to revoke Dr Haughey's licence to use the coops.

Yesterday Mr Justice Brooke ruled that the authority had no right to refuse the licence. He said the coops, consisting of two wooden frames angled at 45 degrees with a 9in gap at the apex through which the fish swim, were a "privileged fixed engine" approved by statute during the reign of Edward VI on condition that a 7ft gap was left between them to allow some salmon to pass through.

The NRA, which was ordered to pay costs, claimed that Dr Haughey had forfeited the estate's right to use the coops because his repairs to the weir interfered with the flow of the river and funneled more fish toward them. The judge ruled that this argument was "misconceived".

## After 1,500 lessons, learner takes her test — and fails

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A VETERAN learner driver has failed her first driving test after taking 1,500 lessons over 26 years, at a cost of more than £18,000.

Sue Evan-Jones, 45, a mother of three from Yale, near Bristol, failed because she fluffed the emergency stop; she hit the clutch instead of the brake. The test instructor was even less impressed when she ploughed into coned-off roadworks and veered into the middle of the road when reversing around a corner.

She has had more than ten instructors, but none has been able to cure the rising panic that overtakes her when she gets behind the wheel. More times than she can remember, the instructors have ended up pleading with her to pull over so that they can get out.

Drivercraft, a driving school based in Bristol, is now



Sue Evan-Jones: hated the mini-roundabouts

offering free lessons and is determined to help her to pass. Vic Leonard, its managing director, said: "We took her right up until her test. Obviously she failed, but she will pass eventually."

Mrs Evan-Jones admitted: "I get very nervous behind the wheel. If I do something

wrong, I just start shaking and my mind goes blank. I don't like mini-roundabouts or reversing round corners because it gets confusing, with the back of the car acting like the front."

"Before the test started I felt absolutely terrified and as soon as I missed the emergency stop I went to pieces. I know it has cost me a fortune to get this far, but I won't let it beat me. I'll pass my test soon." Her husband David, 47, a civilian worker with Avon and Somerset Police, rarely ventures out with her when she is driving. He loses his temper too often.

Her instructor, Nick George, 46, said: "She can definitely pass her test. I will go as far as to say I'm sure she will get her licence next time." Mrs Evan-Jones is so confident that she has already bought herself a car: a blue, £12,000 Austin Metro.



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# Blacklisted schools at risk of failing pupils will be inspected every term

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 2,000 schools on the brink of failing their pupils are to be named and inspected every term.

Ofsted, the school inspection agency, currently identifies only the few schools it believes clearly fail to provide a suitable education. Under plans to inspect most of the 24,000 schools in England and Wales every six years instead of four, the 10 per cent believed to be at risk of failing will be named as having "serious weaknesses".

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said the agency had to focus on raising standards, even if that meant highlighting negative aspects. "Surely, in the interests of the children, these schools have to be identified, whatever the potential impact on the morale of the staff and the standing of the school in the community."

Inspections will concentrate on fewer subjects once all schools had had their first Ofsted assessment, Mr Woodhead said. Visits will focus on English, mathematics and science in primary schools and up to another four subjects in secondaries. Schools will be consulted on the part they will play in choosing which four are chosen. Schools will be regarded as having serious weaknesses if inspectors find

unsatisfactory standards in four or more subjects, or unsatisfactory teaching in more than a quarter of lessons. Other factors to be considered include behaviour, management, value for money, truancy and expulsions.

Ofsted has named 120 schools as failing — about 2 per cent of those inspected so far. Seven have been taken off the list because they improved and Hackney Downs, east London, was closed on the

How well do our children read?  
A two-part series  
beginning in  
The Times on Tuesday

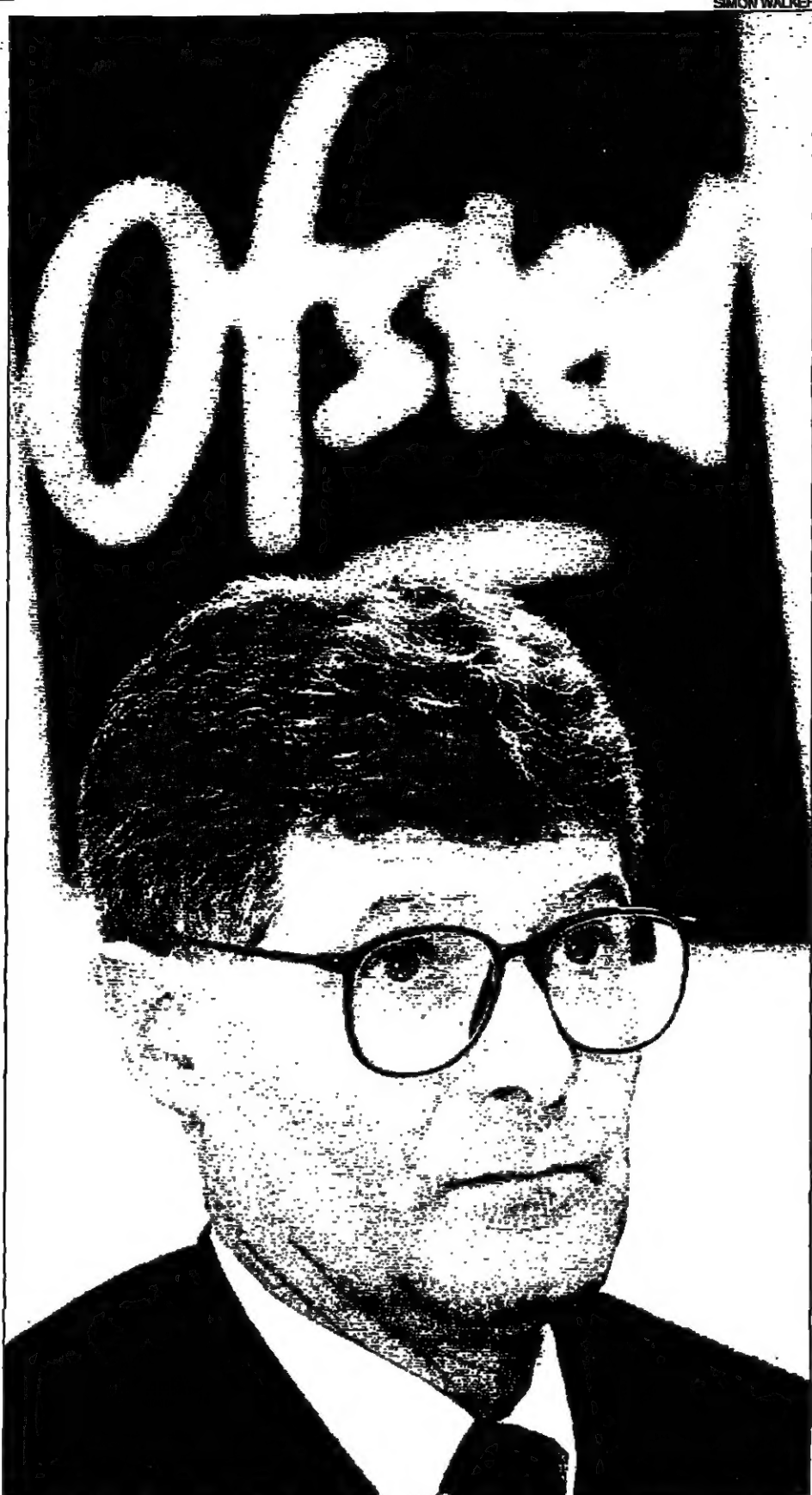
advice of a government team. David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, said the new arrangements were an "admission of failure" by Ofsted on the original scheme of four-yearly inspections. "Ofsted missed its target for primary inspections by a quarter in 1994-95 and by a third for special schools and has not recovered since. That is the main reason for the change," Mr Woodhead yesterday dismissed claims by three

London boroughs that he showed political bias in putting a negative slant on the final draft of a reading survey. The survey revealed that three quarters of seven-year-olds in the boroughs had reading standards lower than the average for their age.

Mr Woodhead said: "There is a continuing debate as to whether we present the information accurately and honestly. We are quite clear that we do. In re-drafting our reports, I wanted to ensure that the messages which are profoundly important to everyone interested in education are understood. The language therefore is direct and clear. It is not deliberately pillorying teachers in those boroughs."

Tower Hamlets, one of the three councils involved in the Ofsted study, said yesterday that it feared the research had been "hijacked for cynical political reasons". Instead of being used to raise reading standards it now appeared to be being used "as a stick to beat teachers around the head with".

Abdul Asad, chairman of education in Tower Hamlets, said: "It is a total abuse of the trust and the spirit of co-operation that was created between all those who compiled the data."



Chris Woodhead: said that lowering teachers' morale was a price worth paying

## Dons decry rise in teaching by untrained research staff

By DAVID CHARTER

FIRST-YEAR university students are more likely to be taught by untrained research students than by staff, lecturers said yesterday.

A survey by the Association of University Teachers shows that student numbers have grown faster than the numbers of qualified teaching staff. Research students are paid as little as £2.79 an hour for teaching and fewer than one in three has been trained to teach. The survey concludes: "Anecdotal evidence suggests that, in many institutions, first-year undergraduate courses are almost exclusively taught by research students."

In a report to be submitted

to the Department for Education and Employment, the association acknowledges that teaching duties have long been recognised as giving research students experience. It adds: "Their use has clearly gone far beyond a reasonable limit."

David Trieman, general secretary, said: "They say that in the country of the blind the one-eyed man is king. But what an absurd principle for recruiting teachers in our leading universities."

A teacher-training college which is now part of the University of Lancaster was judged to be failing its students by government inspectors yesterday.

The former Charlotte Mason College, now the Depart-

ment of Teaching and Education Studies at Lancaster, is the first primary school training centre to be failed by the inspectors. It was given the lowest grade in all four inspection categories.

The inspectors said that a high proportion of students seen were not competent in teaching reading and had significant weaknesses when assessing and recording pupils' progress in English. The mathematics course gave "inadequate coverage" of many elements.

The university must now draw up a recovery plan for the department and present it to the Teacher Training Agency, which may consider removing its accreditation.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Soldier ambushed and robbed of rifle

A soldier was ambushed and robbed of his rifle and motorcycle by a five-strong gang on a remote road in Northumberland. The messenger from the 8th Royal Logistic Corps was taking part in an exercise when the gang drove up alongside him close to Alnham Barracks, near Heddon-on-the-Wall. Police later recovered the motorcycle and assault rifle from a house in the West End of Newcastle upon Tyne. Seven people were arrested.

#### Rape sentence increased

A nine-year sentence on a rapist was increased to life imprisonment yesterday, when the Court of Appeal upheld an objection by the Attorney-General that the Old Bailey had been "unduly lenient". Orlando Baker, 30, of Earls Court, west London, had been free only two months after a sentence for assault when he trapped a woman in his room at a hostel and raped her six or seven times in two hours.

#### Challenge to immunity

Windsor and Maidenhead council is to press for the abolition of Crown immunity, by which the Duke of Edinburgh was allowed to fell a stand of ancient oak trees in Windsor Great Park last year without seeking planning permission from the council. Crown immunity is not restricted to the Royal Family and extends to government buildings and estates.

#### Memorial row payout

A couple who claimed that a planned 3ft street memorial to a murdered policeman in Clapham, south London, would devalue their house are to receive £1,400 from Lambeth Borough Council. The Tory opposition claims the money is compensation for public criticism that the couple brought on themselves. PC Patrick Dunne was shot in October 1993 while investigating the killing of a drugs dealer.

#### Herald admits error

The Catholic Herald apologised yesterday for publishing an article by the novelist Alice Thomas Ellis, which accused the late Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Rev Derek Worlock, of driving people away from the Church. Harry Coen, assistant editor, said he had made an "error of judgment" in using the article, which he admitted had caused widespread distress.

#### Advert 'exploits doctors'

Dr Ian White and Dr Robin Russell Jones, consultant dermatologists at London hospitals, have accused a cosmetics company of "cynical exploitation" for using their names without permission to promote a moisturiser. Advertisements in women's magazines for Cyclax, made by Worth Fragrances and selling for £3.25 per 100ml tub, said the two doctors had stated that all moisturisers were the same.

#### Dunblane fund stolen

A fund launched in Aberfan for the victims of the Dunblane massacre has been stolen from the post office. Hundreds of pounds had been raised by the people of the Mid Glamorgan village, where 144 children were killed when coal slurry buried their school 30 years ago. Chief Inspector Tommy Page of South Wales Police said: "We're disgusted. It's a diabolical crime."

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هكذا من الأصل



# Four patients cleared by faulty test told they have Aids virus

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

FOUR people who were wrongly cleared of having the Aids virus by a faulty test have been told they are HIV positive after all. Last night the Health Department said efforts would be made to trace sexual contacts.

"We will advise them to talk to their partners, or a doctor or health visitor would be happy to do it for them," said a spokesman.

The four were among more than 20,000 people whose blood samples were re-examined after the American-made test, IMX HIV/HIV2, was withdrawn on March 25. European clinics had reported inaccurate results and a doctor in Portsmouth found it registered negative on a patient with fully developed Aids. It had been used by some NHS laboratories since July 1993, with 23,620 blood samples registering negative.

The Health Department issued an alert before the Easter Bank Holiday, warning test

patients that they could not rely on the results.

Yesterday, Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, said that 20,900 samples had been available for retesting: "Four false negative samples have been identified and the individuals have been contacted for further investigations. I would like to extend my sympathies to these individuals in what must be a very difficult situation."

Of the 2,720 with no stored samples available, about 800 people checked at NHS clinics were being invited to provide fresh samples. The remaining 1,920 were private tests, mainly for insurance purposes and visa applications and considered to be low risk.

The Aids charity, the Terence Higgins Trust, said responsibility for the errors lay with the Chicago-based manufacturers, Abbott Laboratories. The test has also been used in Europe, South Amer-

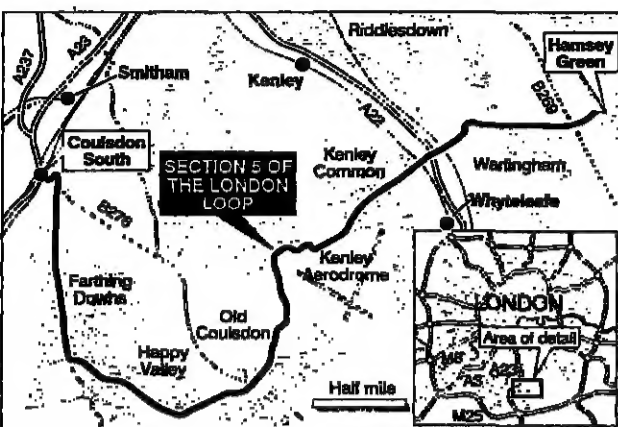
ica and Asia. Tom Lawson, spokesman for the trust, praised the Health Department for ensuring that the retesting was carried out quickly.

He added: "This has been a very stressful month for more than 20,000 people which has resulted in very distressing news for these four. It must be absolutely crushing for them and their families, and it could have tragic implications for their sexual partners."

Terry Donovan, a specialist in medical negligence and HIV law at London solicitors Bolts Burden, said anyone affected by failures in the test could have a case against the manufacturers: "Those who have potentially the largest claims are the partners of the four who may have become infected as a result. But they would have to prove a breach of the duty of care by showing that the manufacturers weren't as diligent as they should have been."



Members of the Downlands Countryside Management Project and volunteers take an inaugural walk on the Loop's first section yesterday



## Walkers start to encircle capital

By KYLE SMITH

THE first section of a footpath its creators hope will become the walkers' answer to the M25 opened yesterday.

The six-mile section of the 150-mile London Outer Orbital Path is between Hamsey Green in Surrey and Coulsdon South Station. Most of the planned route will be on public rights of way.

Alec Baxter Brown, a pro-

ject manager for the Downlands Countryside Management Project, which has organised staff and volunteers to create the footpath and signposts, believes the Loop could be completed by 2000.

So far about a hundred volunteers have put in 3,000 hours of work on the path. One of them, John Sierra, 70, has spent nearly two years on the signpost schedule. "That

entailed working out exactly where each signpost had to be placed. I reckon I walked about 400 miles and the route is only 15 miles," he said.

Funding support for the first section came mainly from the Borough of Croydon, the Corporation of London and Tandridge District Council. Plans are already under way for a second path inside the Loop, to be called the Capital Ring.

## Acquittal raises doubts on speed camera evidence

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

THOUSANDS of drivers could challenge their speeding convictions after it was discovered that police sometimes enhance evidence from road-side cameras.

The RAC said yesterday that a recent case in which police speed camera evidence was ruled inadmissible by magistrates because photographs were enlarged opened a loophole in the law.

Police have traditionally printed speed camera negatives to a standard format. But sometimes, when number plates have been unclear, the size has been increased. The motoring organisation estimates that enlargement may have taken place in up to 40 per cent of about 40,000 cases in which motorists were convicted using Gatso cameras, which snap motorists as they drive by.

Edmund King, the RAC's campaigns manager, said: "This case has enormous ramifications for many motorists. While we cannot condone speeding in any circumstances, the evidence brought against motorists must be clear, unequivocal and consistent."

"Clearly, if the police are enhancing images taken from

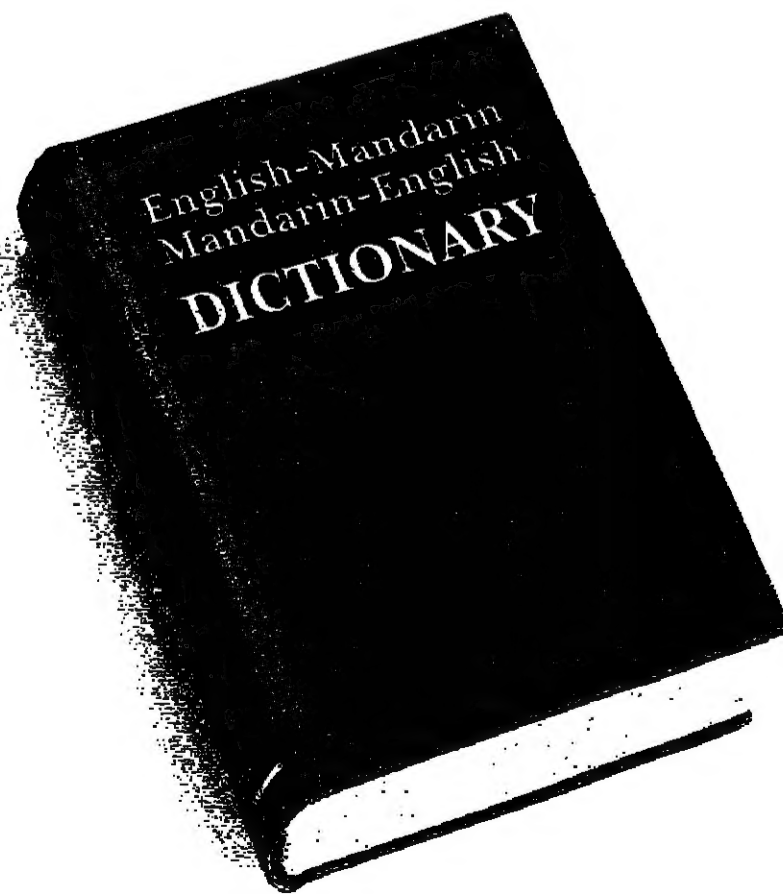
Gatso cameras, then they are tampering with the evidence. We now discover that this type of enhancement or enlargement is widespread among police forces."

The case studied by the RAC was at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court in west London and involved a businessman accused of exceeding a 60mph temporary limit on the M25 in Surrey. His solicitor successfully argued that the picture was enhanced to make the number plates more readable and that evidence produced only directly by the speed camera was admissible.

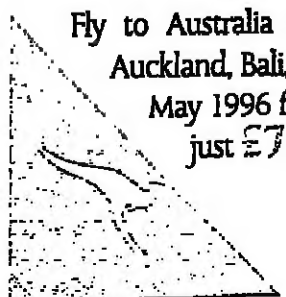
Mr King said that motorists convicted in the same circumstances, who have been charged fixed penalty fines, should contact the police force involved or, in the case of a trial, the court, to question the validity of their convictions.

Police forces are increasingly relying on roadside cameras to slow traffic. In Hertfordshire, for example, accidents along the A505 dropped 46 per cent in 18 months after cameras were installed. They also provide a rich source of income for police: on that same stretch of road, 500 drivers per month are prosecuted, generating £250,000 in fines so far.

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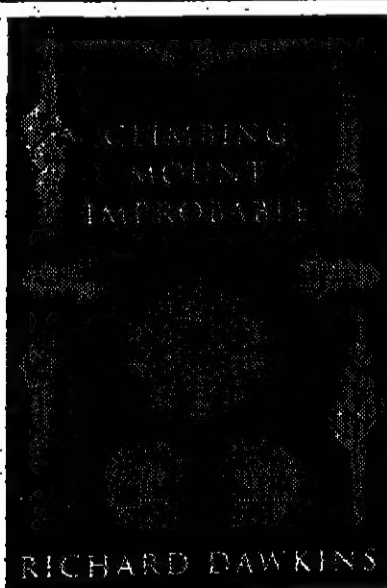
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Michael White, *Mail on Sunday*





## COMPLETE LIST OF RESULTS

## NON-METROPOLITAN COUNCILS

**ADUR:** LD no change. Lab 8, Lab 3, C 2, R 1. Lab gain 3, C lose 3. New council: LD 29, Lab 6, C 2, R 2.

**AMBER VALLEY:** Lab no change. Lab 14, Lab gain 9, C lose 7, Ind lose 1, R lose 1. New council: Lab 39, C 2, Ind 2.

**BARROW-IN-FURNESS:** Lab no change. Lab 10, C 3, Lab gain 3, C lose 3. New council: Lab 29, C 4, Others 5.

**BASILDON:** Lab gain from NOC. Lab 9, LD 5, C 1. Lab gain 8, LD gain 5, C lose 1. New council: Lab 24, LD 17, C 1.

**BASINGSTOKE & DEANE:** NOC no change. Lab 4, Lab 4, Ind 2, C lose 2. New council: Lab 23, LD 17, Lab 14, Ind 3.

**BASSETT:** Lab no change. Lab 13, C 2, LD gain 1, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 29, C 4, C 6, LD 3, Ind 2, Others 5.

**BEDFORD:** NOC no change. Lab 7, LD 6, C 3, Ind 2, Lab gain 2, LD gain 4, C lose 5. New council: Lab 24, LD 16, C 10, Ind 5.

**BLACKBURN:** Lab no change. Lab 14, C 5, LD 3, Lab gain 3, C lose 3. New council: Lab 45, C 12, LD 3.

**BRENTWOOD:** LD no change. Lab 7, C 6, LD 1, Lab gain 1, Lab gain 1. New council: LD 25, C 12, Lab 2.

**BROADLAND:** NOC no change. Lab 7, C 5, LD 3, Ind 1, Lab gain 7, C lose 6, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 20, C 12, LD 12, Ind 5.

**BROOKBOURN:** C no change. Lab 10, Lab 4, C lose 3, Lab gain 3. New council: C 24, Lab 14, LD 4.

**BURNLEY:** Lab no change. Lab 13, LD 2, C 1, Lab gain 4, LD gain 2, C lose 2. New council: Lab 38, LD 8, C 1, Ind 1.

**CAMBRIDGE:** Lab gain from NOC. Lab 8, LD 5, C 1, Lab gain 3, C lose 3. New council: Lab 23, LD 18, C 1.

**CANNOCK CHASE:** Lab no change. Lab 15, LD gain 4, LD gain 4, C lose 5. New council: Lab 40, LD 2.

**CARLISLE:** Lab no change. Lab 13, C 4, LD 1, Lab gain 3, C lose 3. New council: Lab 33, C 14, LD 3, Ind 1.

**CHELTENHAM:** LD no change. Lab 9, LD 3, Others 1, LD gain 5, C lose 4, Lab gain 1, New council: LD 34, C 3, Lab 1, Others 3.

**CHESTER:** Lab gain from NOC. Lab 10, C 6, LD gain 1, C lose 7, LD gain 1. New council: Lab 28, C 16, LD 8.

**CHESTER:** NOC no change. Lab 9, LD 7, C 4, Ind 1, Lab gain 4, LD gain 2, C lose 5. New council: Lab 27, LD 18, C 14, Ind 1.

**CHORLEY:** Lab no change. Lab 11, LD 1, C 2, Ind 1, Lab gain 7, LD gain 1, C lose 9. New council: Lab 35, LD 7, C 5, Ind 1.

**COLCHESTER:** LD no change. Lab 10, Lab 3, C 4, R 1, LD lose 1, Lab gain 3, C lose 2. New council: LD 23, Lab 15, C 11, R 1.

**CONGLETON:** LD no change. Lab 8, Lab 4, C 3, LD gain 2, Lab gain 2, C lose 4. New council: LD 24, Lab 11, C 5, Ind 1.

**CRAYFORD:** LD no change. Lab 12, C 2, Lab gain 2, Ind lose 2. New council: Lab 28, C 2, LD 2.

**CREWE & NANTWICH:** Lab no change. Lab 14, C 3, LD 1, Ind 1, Lab gain 5, C lose 6, Ind gain 1. New council: Lab 38, C 15, LD 3, Ind 1.

**DAVENTRY:** NOC no change. Lab 4, C 1, C gain 1, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 15, C 15, Ind 3, LD 2.

**EASTBOURNE:** LD no change. Lab 6, LD gain 1, C lose 1. New council: LD 22, C 8.

**EASTLEIGH:** LD no change. Lab 9, C 3, Lab 3, LD gain 3, C lose 6, Lab gain 3. New council: LD 31, C 7, Lab 6.

**ELLERSMERE PORT & NESTON:** Lab no change. Lab 12, C 3, Lab gain 3, C lose 3. New council: Lab 36, C 5.

**EMBSAY:** NOC no change. Lab 10, R 6, LD 3, Lab 1, C gain 2, R lose 2. New council: C 22, R 20, LD 9, Lab 8, Ind 1.

**EPPING FOREST:** NOC no change. Lab 5, LD 6, C 4, R 3, Ind 2, Lab gain 1, LD gain 6, C lose 8, R lose 1, Ind gain 2. New council: Lab 24, LD 17, C 1.

**EXETER:** Lab no change. Lab 12, LD 3, Green 2, Lab gain 1, LD gain 1, Green gain 2, C lose 4. New council: Lab 39, LD 9, Green 4, C 2, Ind 1.

**FARNHAM:** NOC no change. Lab 12, LD 3, Lab gain 2, C gain 1, Lab gain 3, Others lose 6. New council: LD 21, C 10, Lab 8, Others 3.

**GILLINGHAM:** LD no change. Lab 10, Lab 3, C 1, LD gain 6, Lab gain 1, C lose 1. New council: Lab 24, LD 17, C 2.

**GLOUCESTER:** Lab no change. Lab 8, LD 1, C 2, Lab gain 5, LD gain 1, C lose 1. New council: Lab 25, C 10, Lab 5, LD 3, Ind 1.

**GOSPORT:** LD no change. Lab 4, Lab 3, C 3, LD gain 1, Lab gain 2, C lose 1. New council: LD 17, Lab 7, LD 3, Ind 2.

**GREAT YARMOUTH:** Lab no change. Lab 11, C 5, Lab gain 5, C lose 5. New council: Lab 39, C 9, LD 1.

**HALTON:** Lab no change. Lab 16, LD 3, Lab gain 1, C lose 1. New council: Lab 46, LD 7.

**HARROGATE:** Lab no change. Lab 10, Lab gain 1, Ind lose 3. New council: Lab 39, LD 3.

**HART:** NOC no change. Lab 12, C 5, Lab 2, LD gain 4, C lose 3, Ind lose 1. New council: C 15, LD 14, Lab 14, R 4, Ind 2.

**HASTINGS:** LD gain from NOC. Lab 6, Lab 5, LD gain 4, Lab gain 2, C lose 5, Ind lose 1. New council: LD 17, Lab 15.

**HAVANT:** NOC no change. Lab 10, Lab 3, C 4, Ind 1, Lab gain 4, C lose 4. New council: LD 20, Lab 11, C 8, Ind 3.

**HEREFORD:** LD no change. Lab 8, Lab 1, LD gain 1, C lose 1. New council: LD 21, Lab 4.

**HERTSMERE:** Lab gain from NOC. Lab 7, C 3, LD 3, Lab gain 3, C lose 6, Lab gain 3. New council: Lab 23, C 8, LD 8, Ind 1.

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE:** C no change. Lab 15, LD 4, C gain 2, LD gain 1, Lab lose 2, Ind lose 1. New council: C 33, LD 15, Lab 5, Ind 2.

**HYNDEN:** Lab no change. Lab 14, C 2, Lab gain 8, C lose 7, LD lose 1. New council: Lab 44, C 3.

**IPSWICH:** Lab no change. Lab 16, Lab 2, Lab gain 5, C lose 4, LD 1. New council: Lab 41, C 6, LD 1.

**LEAMINGTON:** Ind no change. Lab 5, LD 1, Lab 3, C 3, LD lose 2, Lab gain 3, C lose 1. New council: Lab 19, LD 7, Lab 6, C 3, Green 1.

**LINCOLN:** Lab no change. Lab 11, Lab gain 2, C lose 2. New council: Lab 33, LD 11, R 3, Vac 1.

**MACCLESFIELD:** C no change. Lab 14, Lab 4, LD 2, R 1, Lab gain 1, LD lose 1. New council: C 33, Lab 12, LD 11, R 3, Vac 1.

**MAIDSTONE:** NOC no change. Lab 5, Lab 8, C 5, Ind 2, LD gain 3, Lab gain 3, C lose 6. New council: LD 21, Lab 18, C 11, Ind 5.

**MOLE VALLEY:** NOC no change. Lab 6, C 5, Ind 3, Lab 1, LD lose 1, Ind gain 1. New council: LD 19, C 11, Ind 3, Lab 2.

**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME:** Lab no change. Lab 14, LD 4, C 1, Lab gain 5, LD lose 2, C lose 2, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 42, LD 10, C 4.

**NORTH HERFORDSHIRE:** Lab gain from NOC. Lab 12, C 5, LD 1, Lab gain 6, C lose 6, New council: Lab 27, C 16, LD 6, Ind 1.

**NORWICH:** Lab no change. Lab 14, LD 5, LD gain 1, C lose 1. New council: Lab 37, LD 11.

**NUNEATON & BEDWORTH:** Lab no change. Lab 17, Lab gain 3, C lose 3. New council: Lab 42, C 9, Ind 3, Soc Dem 1.

**OXFORD:** Lab no change. Lab 12, LD 3, Green 2, Lab gain 1, LD gain 1, Green gain 2, C lose 4. New council: Lab 39, LD 9, Green 4, C 2, Ind 1.

**PENDLE:** LD no change. Lab 10, Lab 3, LD gain 2, C lose 2. New council: LD 29, Lab 19, C 3.

**PENWITH:** NOC no change. Lab 4, Lab 4, Ind 1, LD gain 1, Lab gain 1, Ind lose 4, C lose 3. New council: LD 11, Lab 9, Ind 8, C 4, Others 2.

**PETERBOROUGH:** Lab gain from NOC. Lab 10, C 4, LD 1, LD 1, Lab gain 6, C lose 6, Lab lose 1, LD 3, LD 2, Ind 1.

**PRESTON:** Lab no change. Lab 11, C 3, LD 5, Lab gain 1, C lose 1, Ind lose 4, C lose 3. New council: LD 13, LD 12.

**PURBECK:** NOC no change. Lab 4, C 3, LD gain 1, C lose 1. New council: Lab 32, C 13, LD 12.

**READING:** Lab no change. Lab 13, LD 2, C 1, Lab gain 3, LD gain 1, C lose 4. New council: Lab 31, LD 4, C 1, Ind 1.

**REDDITCH:** Lab no change. Lab 7, C 1, LD 1, Lab gain 2, C lose 2. New council: Lab 25, C 12, LD 2.

**REIGATE & BANSTEAD:** NOC no change. Lab 5, Lab 5, R 2, C lose 3, Lab gain 3, C lose 3. New council: C 15, LD 14, Lab 14, R 4, Ind 2.

**ROCHFORD:** LD no change. Lab 6, Lab 4, R 2, C 1, LD gain 1, Lab gain 3, R gain 1, R 3, C 2, Ind 1.

**ROSENDALE:** Lab no change. Lab 10, C 2, Lab gain 6, C lose 6. New council: Lab 31, C 5.

**RUGBY:** NOC no change. Lab 7, C 3, R 1, LD 1, Ind 1, Others 1, Lab gain 3, C lose 2, R lose 1. New council: Lab 22, C 11, R 5, Ind 2, Others 2.

**RUNNEMEDE:** C lose to NOC. Lab 9, Lab 3, C 2, C lose 2, Lab 14, Ind 6, LD 1.

**RUSHMOOR:** NOC no change. Lab 8, LD 2, C 4, Ind 2, Lab gain 3, LD gain 3, C lose 5. New council: LD 18, Lab 14, C 13.

**ST ALBANS:** LD no change. Lab 10, Lab 4, C 4, LD gain 5, Lab gain 5, C lose 7. New council: LD 39, Lab 11, C 5, Ind 1, Vac 1.

**SHEWSDALE & ATCHAM:** NOC no change. Lab 8, LD 2, C 4, Ind 2, Lab gain 3, LD gain 3, C lose 5. New council: Lab 22, LD 13, C 8, Ind 5.

**SLOUGH:** Lab no change. Lab 12, LD 1, Lab gain 4, LD lose 1, C lose 2, LD lose 1. New council: Lab 36, LD 3, Ind 1.

**SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE:** NOC no change. Lab 10, LD 7, C 2, Lab gain 9, LD gain 3, C lose 12. New council: Lab 24, LD 15, C 11, Ind 3.

**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE:** NOC no change. Lab 3, C 6, LD 6, Lab 3, C lose 3, LD gain 1, Lab gain 3. New council: LD 25, C 11.

**WYRE FOREST:** Lab gain from NOC. Lab 9, LD 2, C 1, LD 1, Ind 1, Lab gain 3, LD lose 1, C lose 3. New council: Lab 26, LD 8, C 3, Lab 3, Ind 2.

**SOUTH HERFORDSHIRE:** Ind no change. Lab 5, LD lose 2, LD gain 4, C lose 2. New council: Ind 25, LD 13, Vac 1.

**SOUTH LAKELAND:** NOC no change. Lab 6, Ind 2, C 6, LD gain 3, LD gain 2, C lose 2. New council: LD 24, Ind 12, C 10, Lab 6.

**SOUTHEND-ON-SEA:** NOC no change. Lab 6, Lab 6, C 2, LD gain 2, Lab gain 3, C lose 5. New council: LD 18, Lab 12, C 9.

**STEVENAGE:** Lab no change. Lab 12, LD 1, Lab gain 2, LD gain 1, C lose 2, Soc Dem lose 1. New council: Lab 38, LD 1.

**STRATFORD-ON-AVON:** NOC no change. Lab 5, C 9, Ind 2, Lab 2, C lose 2, Lab gain 5, C lose 8. New council: LD 24, C 7, Ind 9, Lab 5.

**STROUD:** NOC no change. Lab 12, LD 1, C 6, Ind 1, Green 1, Lab gain 7, C lose 7. New council: LD 11, C 7, Ind 5, Green 4, Vac 1.

**SWALE:** NOC no change. Lab 7, Lab 6, C 2, LD gain 2, Lab gain 3, C lose 5. New council: LD 19, C 16, Lab 7.

**THAMES VALLEY:** NOC no change. Lab 15, Lab gain 4, C lose 2, Ind lose 4, Lab gain 1. New council: LD 23, C 17, Lab 8.

**TUNBRIDGE WELLS:** LD gain from NOC. Lab 8, Lab 1, LD gain 4, C lose 5, Lab gain 1. New council: LD 27, C 14, Lab 6, Ind 1.

**WATFORD:** Lab no change. Lab 15, Lab gain 4, C lose 2, C lose 2. New council: Lab 21, LD 9, C 6.

**WAVENEY:** Lab no change. Lab 15, C 1, LD 1, Lab gain 7, C lose 7. New council: Lab 44, C 2, LD 2.

**WELWYN HATFIELD:** Lab no change. Lab 12, C 4, Lab gain 3, C lose 3. New council: Lab 31, C 16.

**WEST LANCASHIRE:** Lab no change. Lab 12, C 6, Lab gain 3, C lose 3. New council: Lab 35, C 20.

**WEST LINDSEY:** LD gain from NOC. Lab 6, Ind 5, Lab 1, LD gain 1, Ind gain 2, Lab gain 1, C lose 3, Others lose 1. New council: LD 19, Ind 10, Lab 5, C 2, Others 3.

**WEST OXFORDSHIRE:** NOC no change. Lab 5, LD 3, Lab 5, C 4, LD gain 1, Lab gain 2, C lose 1. New council: LD 15, LD 14, Lab 11, C 9.

**WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND:** NOC no change. Lab 5, LD 5, R 1, Lab gain 5, Ind lose 8, Lab gain 1, C lose 5. New council: Lab 15, LD 14, Ind 4, R 2.

**WINCHESTER:** LD no change. Lab 9, C 3, Lab 2, Ind 3, LD gain 3, C lose 3. New council: Lab 36, C 9, Lab 6, Ind 4.

**WORKINGHAM:** LD gain from NOC. Lab 6, C 3, Lab 3, LD gain 4, C lose 4, Lab gain 2, Ind lose 2. New council: LD 18, C 10, Lab 7.

**WORKINGHAM:** LD gain from NOC. Lab 9, C 9, LD gain 3, C lose 2, Ind lose 1. New council: LD 29, C 24, Ind 1.

**WORCESTER:** Lab no change. Lab 8, C 3, LD 1, Lab gain 1, C lose 1. New council: Lab 23, C 9, LD 3, Ind 1.

**WORTHING:** LD no change. Lab 8, C 3, LD gain 3, C lose 3. New council: LD 25, C 11.

**SANDWELL:** Lab no change. Lab 22, LD 3, Lab gain 13, LD gain 2, C lose 13. New council: Lab 35, C 1.

**ST HELENS:** Lab no change. Lab 15, LD 3, C 1, Lab gain 4, LD lose 1, C lose 2, LD lose 1. New council: Lab 44, LD 9, C 1.

**SALFORD:** Lab no change. Lab 19, LD 1, Lab gain 1, LD gain 1, C lose 3. New council: Lab 57, LD 3.

**SANDWELL:** Lab no change. Lab 22, LD 3, Lab gain 13, LD gain 2, C lose 13. New council: Lab 35, C 1.

**ST HELENS:** Lab no change. Lab 15, LD 3, C 1, Lab gain 4, LD lose 1, C lose 2, LD lose 1. New council: Lab 44, LD 9, C 1.

**SALFORD:** Lab no change. Lab 19, LD 1, Lab gain 1, LD gain 1, C lose 3. New council: Lab 57, LD 3.

**SANDWELL:** Lab no change. Lab 22, LD 3, Lab gain 13, LD gain 2, C lose 13. New council: Lab 35, C 1.

## Great survivor faces another 12 months of hard labour

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The Major Government is taking a long time to die. The final obituaries may not be written for 12 months. Yesterday John Major showed yet again that he is the great survivor, bouncing back to launch yet another counter-attack.

Thursday's local elections make little real difference, apart from confirming the virtual extinction of the Tories in many urban councils which they controlled little more than a decade ago. The modest recovery in the Tory share of the vote from last year's record low contradicts extreme forecasts of a total wipe-out beforehand by some hysterical MPs and newspaper editors.

Against Mr Major, that was nonsense. Mr Major is an asset to the Tories and a leadership contest is the last thing the Tories need. There was a noticeable absence yesterday of the familiar rant-quo Tory backbenchers calling for instant solutions.

The results, bad though they were by any historic comparison, may take some of the immediate pressure off Mr Major. Few Tory MPs believe they can win the election, but they, like Mr Major, are going to make a fight of it, if only to minimise the scale of any defeat and to save their own seats.

The parties naturally pick the figures which suit them best. The most significant is that a governing party has never been so low in the polls for so long and had such a long run of bad local and by-election results then gone on to win the subsequent general election. The mid-term gap between the Tories and Labour was in single figures at most during the 1980s.

Between the May 1991 local elections and the 1992 general election, the Tory share of the national vote rose by seven to eight percentage points. On the basis of the latest results and recent MORI polls, the Tories are at present 15 points below the share of the vote needed to win a bare overall majority in the Commons at the next general election — even after a two to three-point

pick-up over the past 12 months to about 27 per cent. Of course, the gap should narrow over the next year. But it requires some heroic assumptions about the economy, government unity and opposition disarray to believe that the gap will disappear.

The Labour share of the vote — in polls and in local elections — is slightly less than in the first flush of the Blair effect. But the party is still in a commanding position with a higher share of the national vote than it ever achieved under Neil Kinnock or John Smith, even after a three-point drop to about 43 per cent since the 1995 local elections. Tony Blair yesterday gave his usual warning against complacency. He is right, not because there is anything in the latest results to worry Labour, but because all the polls and market research suggest that voters who have switched to back Labour since 1992 are more dissatisfied with the Government than convinced of Labour's ability to deliver on its policies.

The Liberal Democrats have confirmed their emergence as the main challenger to the Tories in many smaller towns in the South and to Labour in some big cities in the Midlands and North. In the past, many of these voters have switched back to the other two parties at a general election. But the Liberal Democrats have built up their local government base in these target parliamentary seats, and are well-placed to make gains at the next election.

Unless the Government suffers a sudden reverse in the Commons, and/or the Ulster Unionists shift their approach, we are in for 12 months of hard pounding. It will not make for good or decisive government, but the Tories do not have any real choice.

PETER RIDDELL



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# Town hall disaster will sap Tories' campaign strength

BY IAN MURRAY AND JAMES LANDALE

THE Tories have virtually been wiped off the local government map of England after two years of disastrous election results.

Thursday's defeat leaves them with no representation on more than fifty councils after losing their last seats on 21, including several former Tory strongholds. On five metropolitan councils, the party is down to just one councillor.

Labour won control of 86 of the 150 authorities that held elections this week, taking control of ten that were previously hung. The Liberal Democrats ended up with an absolute majority in 23 councils, a gain of five. The Tories held three of their four councils and will have to rely on the casting vote of the mayor to retain control.

Councillors are among the most effective Tory party activists and many marginal constituencies will feel their loss at the general election. When the Tories won power in 1979, they had 12,143 councillors.

On Thursday Labour won 1,750 seats, a net gain of 434, and the Liberal Democrats won 636, a gain of 143. The number of Tory seats was halved from 1,055 to 518.

The outcome means that Labour now runs 212 of the 465 authorities in England, Scotland and Wales, including

13 shadow councils just elected to set up new unitary authorities. The Liberal Democrats control 55 councils, and the Tories 13. With a total of 11,000 councillors, Labour has more than the 5,100 Liberal Democrats and 4,400 Tories combined. The Tories failed to win control of any of the new unitary authorities that take over in their areas from next April. This is frustrating for them since the councils were created on the initiative of Michael Heseltine when he was Environment Secretary.

Yesterday Peter Hillon, one of the remaining two Tories who lost their seats on Manchester City Council, said: "This will do nothing to enhance democracy as there will be no real opposition to debate with Labour."

Nina Hannaford, who was the last Tory on Newcastle upon Tyne council until her defeat this week, said: "I guarantee that if there is a Labour Government next year, Tory councillors will be back on the city council 12 months later. One year of Labour rule will bring the people flocking back to us."

Senior Tory officials and activists said that their losses would not prove to be a fatal blow to the party machine. Although they admitted that many MPs were now isolated, they said that the more than

500 defeated Tory councillors would continue to provide back-up for their local associations.

The 21 councils from which the final Tory members were ousted on Thursday are Cannock Chase, Halton, Harlow, Hastings, Hereford, Knowsley, Lincoln, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Oldham, Oxford, Salford, Slough, South Herefordshire, Stevenage, Stoke-on-Trent, Tameside, Tamworth, Weymouth & Portland and Wigan. One Tory councillor remains on each of five councils: Basildon, Gateshead, Sheffield, Liverpool, Barnsley and St Helens.

Ron Watson, chairman of the Tories' National Local Government Committee and leader of the Tory group on the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said: "Conservative councillors provide the backbone, the troops on the ground in many associations. These people are an asset to the Tory party and they need to be kept on board."

"We need to try and encourage our defeated councillors to hang in there and work on the ground in many associations. These people are an asset to the Tory party and they need to be kept on board."

Kenneth Baker, page 18  
Leading article, page 19

## THE GENERAL ELECTION ABYSS FACING MAJOR

50 Tory seats lost in a general election: The first to go

- 1 Walter Sweeney, Vale of Glamorgan
- 2 Michael Forsyth, Stirling
- 24 Nirj Deva, Brentford & Isleworth
- 26 Edwina Currie, Derbyshire South
- 28 Dame Angela Rumbold, Mitcham & Morden
- 46 Ian Lang, Galloway & Upper Nithsdale
- 50 Seb Coe, Falmouth & Camborne



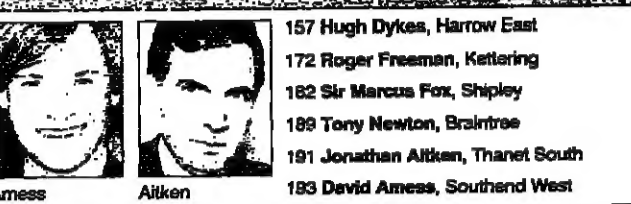
- 58 Sir Ivan Lawrence, Burton
- 60 Tony Marlow, Northampton North
- 69 Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Edinburgh West
- 74 Malcolm Rifkind, Edinburgh Pentlands
- 84 Rupert Allason, Torbay
- 92 David Evans, Weylyn & Hatfield



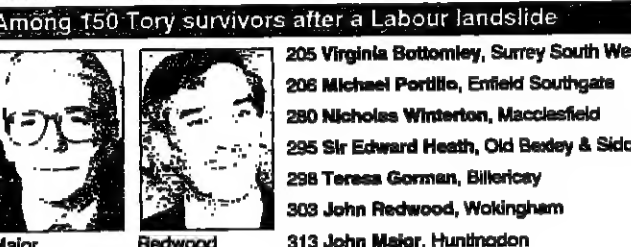
- 100 Jacqui Lait, Hastings & Rye
- 122 David Mellor, Putney
- 124 William Waldegrave, Bristol West
- 128 Ann Winterton, Congleton
- 130 Michael Howard, Folkestone & Hythe
- 145 Norman Lamont, Harrogate & Knaresborough



- 157 Hugh Dykes, Harrow East
- 172 Roger Freeman, Kettering
- 182 Sir Marcus Fox, Shipley
- 189 Tony Newton, Braintree
- 191 Jonathan Aitken, Thanet South
- 193 David Amess, Southend West



- 205 Virginia Bottomley, Surrey South West
- 206 Michael Portillo, Enfield Southgate
- 280 Nicholas Winterton, Macclesfield
- 295 Sir Edward Heath, Old Bexley & Sidcup
- 298 Teresa Gorman, Billerica
- 303 John Redwood, Wokingham
- 313 John Major, Huntingdon



## MPs who ask not for whom the bell tolls

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SOME of the best-known personalities at Westminster face defeat if the rout of Tory councillors is repeated at the general election.

A list of the 50 most vulnerable seats would be headed by Walter Sweeney, whose majority in the Vale of Glamorgan is 19. Nirj Deva, the Tories' only Asian MP, would be out of Brentford and Isleworth after one term.

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, would be the first big casualty. Stirling, where he has a 703 majority, is the Tories' seventh most vulnerable seat. Ian Lang, the Trade and Industry Secretary, who has a 2,500 majority, is number 46 on the risk list.

Edwina Currie, who has relaunched her career a second time after her attempt to become a Euro-MP was rebuffed in Bedfordshire, has a more lucrative insurance policy. Her latest novel is reputed to be worth ten years of her £34,000 salary.

Dame Angela Rumbold, party vice-chairman in charge of candidates, would have to apply to her own department for a new seat. The double Olympic medallist Sebastian Coe would be out of the running.

John Major would extract one grain of comfort if the losses soared between 50 and 100. Tony Marlow, the Euro-sceptic who was the first MP to call for Mr Major's resignation, would lose Northamp-

ton North. David Evans (Weylyn and Hatfield), who ran John Redwood's leadership campaign, would also fall.

Malcolm Rifkind, a potential leadership contender if Mr Major resigned, would be out of the race. His 4,300 majority in Edinburgh Pentlands puts him at 74 on the list. Rupert Allason, a thorn in the whips' side, would be another casualty. Like Mrs Currie he would have more time for his lucrative career as the spy writer Nigel West.

If up to 150 Tories were defeated, David Mellor's portfolio of ten consultancies, one of the biggest in Parliament, would shrink with the loss of his Putney platform. William Waldegrave's 6,000 majority in Bristol West would vanish, as would the 9,000 margin enjoyed by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, in Folkestone and Hythe.

If 200 Tories lost their seats, it would be farewell to the Cabinet ministers Roger Freeman and Tony Newton. John Major would be the most prominent survivor but his colleagues on the Opposition benches might not bring him much cheer. Sir Edward Heath would still be there, doubtless with constructive advice for his latest successor.

Michael Portillo and Kenneth Clarke could also stand against a familiar adversary. John Redwood has in Wokingham one of the safest Tory seats in the country.

## Right wing calls for radical policies We are the winners, say Lib Dems

BY JILL SHERMAN  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Tory MPs urged John Major yesterday to adopt a radical right-wing agenda and take a tougher stance against Brussels in the hope of reviving Tory fortunes before the general election.

Backbenchers worried by the Tory rout on Thursday called on the Prime Minister to listen to ordinary party members rather than Whitehall officials. Next week John Redwood, who challenged Mr Major for the leadership last year,

will present a right-wing programme, focusing on law and order, health and Europe. In a pamphlet, *Action not words*, he will call for lower taxation, including lowering the VAT on fuel to 5 per cent. He will also underline the need to take a more sceptical line on Europe, arguing against any further moves towards European integration.

Other leading rightwingers are also calling for a policy shift. Yesterday John Townend, chairman of the 92 Group, demanded a clampdown on the "yob culture" and urged Mr Major to "ride on

the wave of Euro-scepticism sweeping the country". He said: "The great difficulty with a Government that has been in power since 1979 is that it gets swamped in Whitehall machinery and takes more notice of civil servants than it does of the party or the country."

Sir George Gardiner called on Mr Major to give a clear lead after Thursday's "appalling" results. "This leadership must start in Cabinet. He has got to knock some heads together so that ministers sing from the same hymn sheet."

BY ALICE THOMSON  
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Liberal Democrats declared yesterday that they were the only winners in the local elections.

Paddy Ashdown, the party leader, said that Labour had had almost as miserable a night as the Tories. The Liberal Democrats had built the best general election launchpad they had ever had

and were the only party to have exceeded their targets. They were now the undisputed second party of local politics.

"This tops up six years of straight success, year on year, election after election," he said. "The Lib Dems are now genuinely a national party, capable of winning where either of the other two parties govern badly, making progress in every corner of the country and progress against

both of them. We are now the obvious force to remove the Tories in many places where they must be beaten."

The Liberal Democrats took control of six new councils including the former Tory heartland of Tunbridge Wells. They also won seats from Labour in most cities.

Mr Ashdown said that Labour's performance also fell far short of what it wanted to achieve. "People do not want

new Labour to have everything their own way with giving any commitment. They did not blunt the Lib Democrats' advance."

Tony Blair, however, has the result as a huge step on road to a Labour government. He warned his party against complacency but said: "This is a brilliant result for us and disaster for the Tories."

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# British aid got Hitler's engines back on the rails for Bosnia

FROM STACY SULLIVAN  
IN TUZLA

STEAM engines that were once used on Hitler's Eastern front have been restored by British engineers to haul vital trainloads of coal in Bosnia.

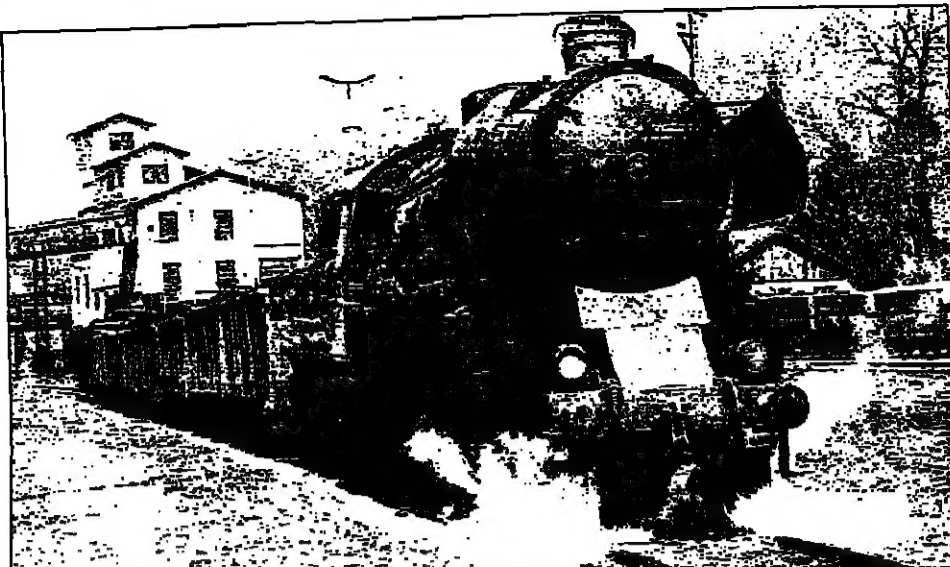
Vintage German engines, under the unlikely patronage of Britain's Overseas Development Administration, have been taken out of sidings and museums and set to work again. Throughout the war they have been a lifeline for the people of central Bosnia, keeping power stations supplied with coal from Tuzla's Krupa mines.

The restoration of the engines, which were the only means of supplying the power plants, provided electricity for nearly a million people.

"Welcome to my museum," proclaimed Mustafa Saracevic, the steam train expert at the Krupa mine, as he gestured towards the blackened Krupa Series 33 steam engine spewing columns of steam and smoke as it chugged past.

Dressed in a blue apron, cap and gloves to protect him from the soot on the trains, he said: "These old grandmothers saved the electrical system of Bosnia. Because of them, we managed to stay alive."

When the war began in Bosnia in 1992, the Krupa mine had just modernised its railway and was using diesel locomotives to transport coal to the region's five power



One of the renovated German trains which were used to take supplies of coal to Bosnia's power stations. "They should be given medals," a railway expert said

plants. But as fighting sealed off key routes into the landlocked country, the diesel supply dried up, virtually shutting down the mine and depriving the region of electricity.

In 1993, Mr Saracevic hauled out the old steam engines and put them to work shuttling coal around the mine. There were 12 of them — eight Krupa trains from Germany manufactured between 1942 and 1945, and four Series 62 Yugoslav trains made between 1952 and 1957.

But because spare parts and a special kind of oil were not readily available, even before

the war, putting them into use was particularly difficult. "We spent so many nights here at the mine trying to create makeshift spare parts so we could get the steam engines running," said Mr Saracevic.

"I knew the British still had some steam trains. They are a strange breed and they like their tradition, so I called the ODA and asked if they could help to supply some spare parts."

Mike Bristow, an ODA project engineer in Tuzla, took up the task. "The last time I had seen a steam train was round about the mid-50s," he said. "But there was

no diesel available and by some stroke of foresight, or just plain good luck, these trains were still in operation. They just needed some spare parts and some oil."

The ODA provided white metal for the bearings, gaskets, water-treatment chemicals, oil and lightbulbs for the train workshop at a cost of about 50,000 marks (£21,741).

Within about six months all 12 trains were running again.

"If it were not for the steam trains, there would not have been any electricity," said Mr Bristow.

Mr Saracevic, who has a picture of his daughter

framed in an old steam train lantern, now calls himself "Bosnia's only steam train expert".

Before the war there were two others. "But they are both Chechniks now," he said, referring to the name for Serb fighters. His desk is littered with brochures from Britain's Somerset and Dorset Railway and photocopies of *Steam Railway Magazine*, which lists companies that sell spare parts.

Before the war, said Mr Saracevic, some Austrians approached him about buying the trains to put in a technical museum in Vienna. "We couldn't sell them because we still needed them," he said.

"Now that the war is over, we are probably going to have to substitute diesels for them soon. We will preserve these and wait for the next war. That is the law here. We have them quite often."

One of the blackened trains chugged past Mr Saracevic's office — a dilapidated building made of corrugated iron perched between the coal mine and the railtracks — and whistled and let out a plume of steam and spray of water before grinding to a halt.

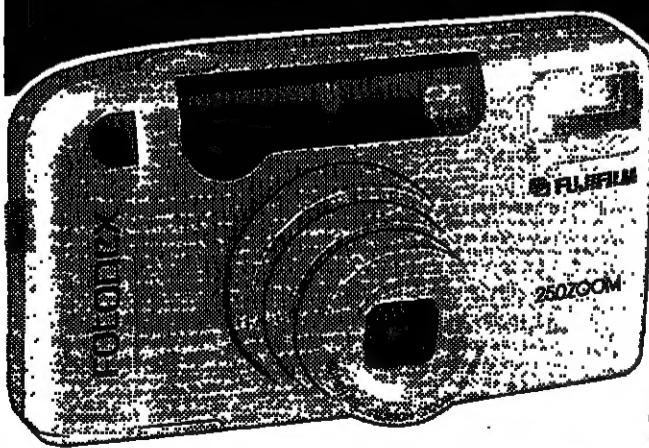
"These steam trains should be given medals," he said. "How could we have lived without electricity throughout the war? It was crucial to the hospitals and the factories. I will be sorry when we put them away."



Ahmet Divkovic drives a Krupa Series 33 steam locomotive, restored in Tuzla

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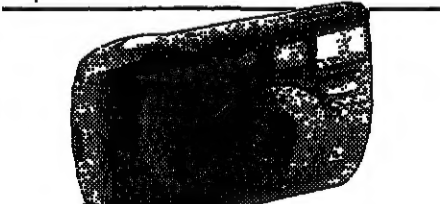
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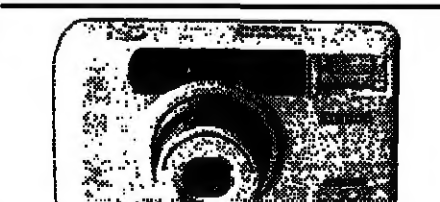
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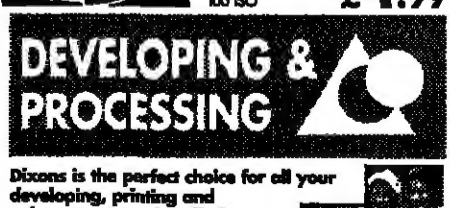
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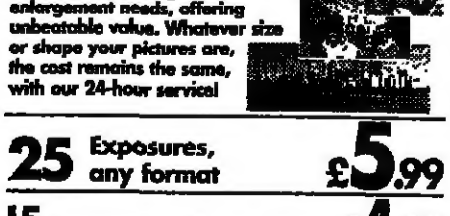
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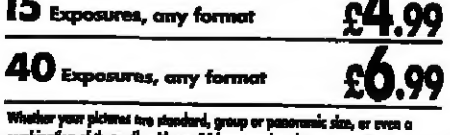
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## Human parts sold in South African witchcraft killings

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

A REPORT about witchcraft killings in South Africa, based on the findings of a government commission, has exposed grisly details of a trade in human parts for use as "medicine".

The Commission of Inquiry into Witchcraft Violence and Ritual Murders was set up to investigate 140 killings since the beginning of the year in remote areas of Northern Province. The report states that body parts are taken from live victims, their screams said to ensure the magical power of the "medicine". In one incident a human skull was embedded in the foundation of a new building to ensure that business thrived. It was also reported that brews containing human parts were buried on farms to secure good harvests.

Belief in the supernatural runs deep in South Africa and the use of *muti*, medicine for magical purposes, is widespread. Thousands of blacks raise their beds on bricks so the *tokoloshe*, a hairy, sexually insatiable dwarf, will not get to them.

The study found that many young people, even those who are educated, attribute unexpected illness and disastrous events to witchcraft. The commission blamed some traditional healers for contributing to the murders. The victims

were often killed on the instructions of the healers after being consulted by people with grievances against the victims or who stood to gain from their deaths.

Witchcraft and ritual killing, hitherto confined to remote rural areas, have in recent years moved into the urban areas. Last weekend a man was arrested in Johannesburg after allegedly selling a pair of eyes to a police informer. According to the report, human parts needed to perform certain rituals can be found easily in the city.

The report indicates that whites could increasingly become targets of *muti* killings. Several older men who gave evidence believed that medicine which included organs from whites was more effective than that involving blacks because the wealth was in white hands and whites were successful in business.

The report found that remote, rural communities inhabited by poorly educated people were the most notorious for witchcraft. Sisi Ndhlovu, the Security Minister of Northern Province, said the provincial government should embark on an education programme to "mentally liberate" the population. He called for investigations into the involvement of traditional leaders in the killings.

## Yeltsin cuts campaign tour after heckling

FROM RICHARD BEESTON  
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday came face to face with the angry underclass of Russian society determined to vote him out of office when he seeks re-election next month.

During a campaign tour of the ancient city of Yaroslavl, 160 miles north of Moscow, the Russian leader was heckled by unpaid workers and resentful pensioners, who succeeded momentarily in denigrating the Kremlin chief's confident manner.

"We have not been paid for four months in a row," said one elderly woman in the crowd. She was joined by a younger protester who shouted: "The workers are being squeezed, squeezed, squeezed."

Later during a wreath-laying ceremony at the city's war memorial, the President was accosted by a World War Two veteran who asked him to pull out of the presidential race. "I will not remove my candidacy," the Russian leader said firmly. "I will struggle for people, for their high living standards, for freedom, not for power."

Most people who turned out to see Mr Yeltsin in Yaroslavl welcomed him warmly. However, he must recognise that a sizeable proportion of the provincial electorate has little or



Zyuganov: gains from discontented voters

no material gain to show for his five years in office and that discontent is likely to be translated into votes for Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader.

Experts are divided on the outcome of the presidential race, but most predict it will be a close contest. Mr Zyuganov is enjoying a small lead in most opinion polls, although he will be hard pressed to muster the more than 50 per cent needed to win.

Last night, Mr Yeltsin called off a trip to the ancient town of Vladimir due to take place today. There was no explanation why he decided not to go the town, 100 miles east of Moscow and one of 16 stops he planned this month in a whirlwind regional tour.

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# Blow to Peking as hounded dissident escapes to America

By JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

LIU GANG, once China's third "most wanted" political dissident, has escaped to the United States. The White House confirmed yesterday that he had been allowed into the country but declined to say whether he had been granted political asylum.

The 34-year-old dissident escaped from China on April 27 with the help of unidentified international organisations. He arrived in Hong Kong, where he was quickly put on a plane, reaching San Francisco on April 30 en route to Washington.

Mr Liu, one of the leaders of the pro-democracy uprising in Tiananmen Square in 1989, had been jailed for six years. His escape is a severe blow for the Chinese security service, which had kept him under tight surveillance since his release from prison last year.

Yesterday Mr Liu, in an interview with the BBC from Boston, where he is staying with friends, said he fled because he and his family had been harassed by Chinese authorities since his release.

"Even in my home, the police-men [in Lingyuan, Jilin province in northeast China] treated me very bad."

He charged that police tampered with his mail and



Liu: will continue fight for democratic China

telephone line, restricted his freedom to move house, prevented him from finding work or setting up a business and intimidated his friends and relatives. "They watched me all day and came to my room every day," Mr Liu said.

The former Peking University physics student urged the Chinese authorities yesterday not to persecute his family. His younger brother, Liu Yong, has also managed to leave China and is currently in

Hong Kong. Although Mr Liu declared that he would continue to fight for democracy in China, Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, said he did not expect his case to damage American relations with Peking.

Mr Liu had ranked number three on China's most wanted list of students, behind such leaders as Wuor Kaidi and Wang Dan, after the army crushed the Tiananmen protests with heavy loss of life.

He has been outspoken on human rights. Last year, when police told him to avoid contact with "hostile foreign forces", he replied: "They do not have this information written on their foreheads."

Robin Munro, the Hong Kong director of Human Rights Watch/Asia, said Mr Liu's escape "underlines the fact that there is no space in China for any important dissident figure to survive without being constantly hounded."

News clamps Peking intends to restrict foreign press coverage of the handover ceremony on June 30 next year when China takes over sovereignty of Hong Kong from Britain. About 6,000 journalists are expected to attend. China has also said the journalists must be vetted.



British players rehearsing their Chinese staging of Hamlet, with the Great Wall standing in for Elsinore and, below, Hamlet taunts Polonius



## Hamlet's ghost goes east

By LEYLA LINTON

WHEN the ghost of Hamlet's father appeared yesterday, it was not on the battlements of Elsinore, but a place far removed from Shakespeare's imagination — the Great Wall of China. It was the first time a play has been staged on the wall.

This weekend's three performances in one of the towers near the tiny village of Jin Shan Ling, about 70 miles from Peking, are sold out. The audience has to be fit enough to complete the 15-minute climb to the "stage".

The Peking Players, a semi-professional company that includes British diplomats and several expatriate businessmen, has been rehearsing since January.

Andrew Mallett, a professional actor from Britain who will play Hamlet, said: "The wall is the perfect setting. It is incredible to be open to the elements and see the moonlit towers against the sky. The sheer scale of the wall inspires me."

Zeba Clarke, a teacher and the director, said yesterday: "We had four major rehearsals on the wall. It is astonish-

ingly user-friendly. The atmosphere is superb in terms of acoustics and views. The turret has windows through which you can see the sunset and mountains." Her husband, Peter, a diplomat at the British Embassy in Peking, plays Claudius.

Mrs Clarke's only concern is the high winds, which could drown out actors' voices and mean "the set may tumble down around our ears".

All profits from the play, which transfers to the Zheng Yici Opera House next week, will help to support the Peking Opera.

## Police in Tasmania reopen files on five earlier deaths

By ROGER MAYNARD IN HOBART AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AS TASMANIANS turned out in their hundreds for the first funeral of a victim of last Sunday's massacre, police confirmed yesterday that they had widened their investigation to include the killer's possible involvement in five other deaths.

Detectives said Martin Bryant could have been linked to at least two stabbings, the disappearance of a German backpacker three years ago, as well as the apparent suicide of his father, Maurice, and the death of Helen Harvey, a family friend, in a car accident in which Bryant was a passenger. Maurice Bryant's body was found in a dam, with his son's diving weight tied round his neck.

In Hobart yesterday about 700 people attended the service for Royce Thompson, 59, who was shot near his bus in



Kate Scott: one of the 35 victims at Port Arthur

the car park of the Broad Arrow Café at the Port Arthur historic settlement. It was the first funeral for the 35 victims. At the Royal Hobart Hospital, where Bryant is being held under armed guard, police have traced many of the threatening telephone calls made to the switchboard over the past few days. The calls have so alarmed hospital staff, that absenteeism has increased dramatically.

Meanwhile Jenetta Hoani, 17, the gunman's former girlfriend, has claimed that he was obsessed with bestiality, violent videos and teddy bears, of which he had 200 in his bedroom. She said Bryant's favourite video was *Child's Play 2*, which features a doll called Chucky that comes to life after killing a boy and taking over his character. *Child's Play 3* was alleged to have influenced the ten-year-old killers of James Bulger, the Liverpool toddler.

Miss Hoani, whose relationship with Bryant, 28, ended three months ago, said that he would undergo frightening personality changes, when he appeared to delight in death and danger.

Bryant had surgery on Thursday for burns. He is expected to remain in hospital for up to a week before being transferred to Hobart's Risdon prison. Bryant, who has been charged with one murder — of Kate Scott — has been remanded to appear in court on May 22.

## Chimps could join the family of man

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

GORILLAS and chimpanzees should be reclassified as members of the same family as man, a group of Australian and New Zealand scientists has urged.

The existing classification, which groups the great apes as a separate genus, fails to take account of DNA studies which have shown the close links between man and some of the apes, according to Dr Simon Easta, from the John Curtin School of Medical Research in Canberra.

In a paper on human origins and evolution presented on behalf of the group at the Australian Academy of Sciences in Canberra yesterday, Dr Easta noted that chimpanzees and gorillas share almost all the human genes.

"There is only a 1.6 per cent difference between our nuclear DNA and that of a chimpanzee, and only 1.7 per cent difference from a gorilla," he said. "Some DNA shows absolutely no differences at all." Dr Easta said the DNA test indicated that both chimpanzees and humans had a common ancestor who walked upright.

The close similarities meant that classifications based on appearance could no longer be justified.

This is not the first time that revisions to the classification of apes and man has been proposed, but there is a resistance to change among scientists. If adopted, it would place man, chimpanzees and gorillas together in a genus (family) called *Hominidae*, the hominids. At present this family contains only one species, man.

Orang-utans, which are less closely related, would remain in the family called *Pongidae* (great apes). All four species would still form part of the same super-family, the *Hominoidae* (hominoids), which links apes and humans.

One objection to such a scheme is that the term hominid, which refers to only man and his immediate ancestors, would embrace African apes as well. A new term would be needed to describe creatures in the direct line of descent to man. *Homininae*, or hominins, has been suggested, but to have hominoids, hominids, and hominins would be confusing.

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**MARTIN WALLER 24**

Boardroom ethics and those unexpected tenants

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
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Friday

**WORKING WEEK 25**

The dream team man in the driving seat



**SPORT 37-44**

Owner hoping for dividend on 1,000 Guineas investment

**THE HIDDEN ASSETS AT GRINDLAYS**

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# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY MAY 4 1996



Flair for display: Robert Essex, managing director of CA Coutts, which yesterday confirmed shares will be priced at 105p each, capitalising the largest in-store display supplier in Britain at £11.2 million when it floats next Thursday on AIM. Clients include Disney, Tesco and Microsoft

## Jobs to go in Royal and Sun Alliance merger

By MARIANNE CURPHEY AND ROBERT MILLER

UP TO 5,000 jobs are to go in the biggest shake-up in the insurance industry for more than a decade after Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance announced plans to merge.

The new company — Royal Sun Alliance — will be the biggest insurer in the UK, with 16 per cent market share. It will be twice the size of its nearest rival, General Accident, and will become the seventh largest UK life company.

The share prices of other insurers shot up as analysts predicted a wave of mergers and acquisitions and tipped Guardian Royal Exchange as the next takeover candidate.

About 11 per cent of the current workforce of Royal and Sun will be shed, saving £175 million by 1998 through staffing cuts and cost reductions. However, a similar will be spent sum on redundancy and reorganisation costs.

Michael Meacher, Labour's employment spokesman, called for an inquiry by the

Office of Fair Trading on the ground that the deal was anti-competitive. However, the companies believe their market share is too small to require such an investigation.

Richard Gamble, chief executive of Royal, will become chief executive of Royal Sun Alliance. Roger Taylor, currently Sun Alliance's chief executive, will be chairman of the management board. A new non-executive chairman will be selected from outside the current boards.

At least 4,000 staff, including six existing board directors, will be cut in the UK, with the remainder being shed by overseas subsidiaries.

The two companies currently employ more than 45,000 people worldwide and will have 1.8 million motor policies, just 400,000 fewer than Direct Line, the market leader.

Mr Taylor promised "significantly enhanced earnings to shareholders and dividend prospects" and said Sun Alliance share-

holders would hold approximately 53.6 per cent of shares in the new group and Royal shareholders 46.4 per cent.

Although the announcement surprised the City, the deal was well received. Royal shares shot up 64p to 434p, while Sun Alliance shares rose 57p to 416p. The news also moved General Accident's price up 33p to 655p.

Guardian's up 40p to 273p, and Commercial Union's up 29p to 619p.

The merger is subject to shareholder. High Court and regulatory approval. Analysts said motor and home insurance premiums might rise because the merged company would not feel under pressure to write unprofitable business.

Under the terms of the merger, Royal shareholders will receive 1,067 Royal Sun Alliance shares for every 1,000 Royal Shares. Policyholders will not be entitled to windfall payments because the two companies are not mutual organisations.

Mr Taylor said: "We are making a dividend forecast of not less than 19p net per Royal Sun Alliance share for 1996."

Based on 1995 figures the new merged company would have worldwide premium income of £9.39 billion, an operating profit of £909 million and pre-tax profits of £1.03 billion.

One crucial area that needs to be addressed is investment performance. Neither party has sparkled as a leading manager of retail funds, and in future investment products, including unit trusts, will be sold as much on the back of performance as marketing hype.



Richard Gamble, left, with Roger Taylor yesterday

Times, page 26

## Midlands talks to mystery bidder

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE City is anticipating a new £1.8 billion bid for Midlands Electricity after the company confirmed yesterday that it was in talks with a potential bidder.

But speculation was also growing that PowerGen, the electricity generating company, will challenge the Government over its veto last week of the company's £1.4 billion bid for Midlands. Any legal moves by PowerGen, which holds a 21 per cent stake in Midlands, would throw an agreement between the Midlands board and the company's new suitors into doubt.

Midlands refused yesterday to reveal the identity of the bidder but speculation centred on General Public Utilities, the US company, which made a preliminary approach to Midlands earlier this year.

Analysts predicted a takeover bid would be placed between £4.40 and £5.05 a share, based on the price of previous electricity company offers. The Midlands share price last night closed up 38p at 423p, valuing the company at £1.6 billion.

The City also expressed concern about the ability of Midlands's management to drive a fair price, pointing to the £3.71 a share bid the board was prepared to recommend from PowerGen last autumn. The crucial factor in any Midlands bid is PowerGen. The company bought its 21 per cent stake at £3.52p, and is already sitting on a £60 million profit. A decision to support a new bid would facilitate a straightforward takeover. But belligerent comments by Ed Wallis, chief executive of PowerGen, suggest the company is prepared to seek a judicial review of the Government's decision.

Last night PowerGen refused to comment on its plans.

Times, page 26

## WEEKEND MONEY

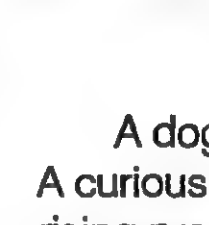


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## BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3751.4	(-24.8)
Yield	3.96%	
FT-SE All share	1887.22	(-11.41)
Nickel	Closed	
New York		
Dow Jones	5610.91	(+12.54)
S&P Composite	948.84	(+3.40)

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(0.25%)
Long Bond	87 1/2%	(0.25%)
Yield	7.05%	(7.06%)

3-month Interbank	6%	(0%)
Life long gilt	104 1/2%	(105%)

New York	1,503.9	(1,502.5)
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London	1,502.5	(1,499.4)
DM	2,294.8	(2,298.2)
FF	7,757.3	(7,764.6)
SF	1,575.6	(1,572.4)
Yen	157.35	(156.95)
S Index	83.7	(83.7)

London	1,292.3	(1,300.0)
DM	1,162.0	(1,161.0)
FF	1,242.6	(1,248.5)
SF	104.84	(104.45)
Yen	98.3	(98.4)

Tokyo close	Yen Closed	
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Brent 15-day (Jul.)	\$18.35	(\$18.10)
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London close	\$383.45	(\$383.25)
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\* denotes midday trading price

## Woolwich late with report on ex-chief

By ROBERT MILLER

THE deadline for completion of a report into the series of allegations against Peter Robinson, the ousted chief executive of the Woolwich, passed yesterday with the building society admitting that it had not been completed.

Since Mr Robinson left his £320,000 post last month, the Woolwich, which has become a prime takeover target, KPMG, the accountant, and Linklaters & Paines, the law firm, have been compiling a confidential report on the allegations against Mr Robinson for the society's board. Allegations concerned abuses of expenses and other irregularities be-

lieved to be running into a six-figure sum. It is now understood that the confidential report will contain allegations about relationships that Mr Robinson had with outside suppliers of goods and services to the Woolwich such as cars, cleaners, decorators, gardeners and electricians.

It is also believed that the report will allege misuse of Woolwich-owned property for family purposes. Mr Robinson has consistently denied any wrong-doing. Henry Clinton-Davis of D J Freeman, Mr Robinson's lawyer, said: "It would not be appropriate for me to comment at this time."

## Labour activist elected by IoD

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LEADERS of the free-market Institute of Directors, traditionally seen as a strong supporter of the Conservative Party, have for the first time voted a Labour activist on to the IoD's governing council.

The move by the IoD is a further indication of British business readying itself for the possible election of a Labour government — and another significant shift in the positioning of the IoD itself.

Michael Craven, a former adviser to John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, is to join the IoD's 75-strong governing council, which meets quarterly and has responsi-

bility for the overall policy and operation of the institute.

Mr Craven, who is now managing director of Market Access, a political and public affairs consultancy with strong links to Labour, is a well-known figure and backroom operator in Labour circles.

The IoD said Mr Craven had been a member for many years. Michael Mander, IoD chairman, said he would "bring a fresh perspective on our deliberations on a number of important issues".

Mr Craven, currently on business in America, said the IoD's importance was recognised by both leading parties.

## Colorvision's founders quit board

By SARAH BAGNALL

COLORVISION'S battle for survival took a critical step forward yesterday when the founders of the TV and video retailer stepped down from the board, appointed a new chairman and gave him — free of charge — a 20.6 per cent stake in the company.

The moves form part of a radical restructuring by the group to keep its consumer credit licences. In January the Office of Fair Trading stripped Colorvision of its licences due to a series of dishonest practices including supplying second-hand goods as new.

Colorvision appealed against the rul-

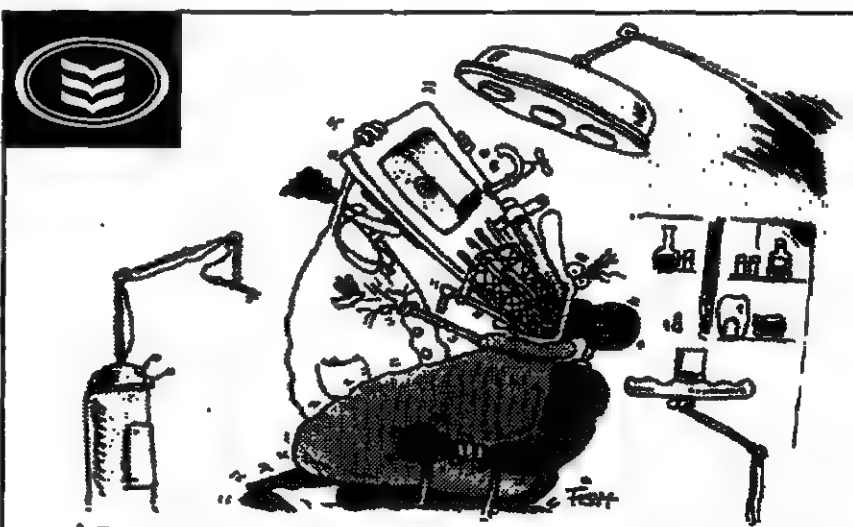
ing and yesterday said the OFT agreed not to contest the appeal if it undertakes a large restructuring and provides assurances on future conduct. The news came as the group gave warning of a swing from a £1 million pre-tax profit to a £4 million loss in the year to March 31.

As part of the agreed restructuring, co-founders Neville Michaelson, chairman, and his older brother, Bernard Michaelson, company secretary, have stood down from the board. They have reduced their holding from 66.6 per cent to 29.9 per cent by giving away shares to three newly appointed directors and a trust for key employees. Sir Brian Wollson, a former chairman of Wem-

bley, has been appointed executive chairman and given 4.17 million shares in the group, which at yesterday's closing share price were valued at £1.3 million.

Last September Sir Brian parted company with the Wembley stadium group. During his ten years as chairman, Wembley notched up debts of £140 million.

Colorvision has appointed two new non-executive directors: Adrian Collins, who has been given a 2.5 per cent shareholding, and Anthony Rawlinson, a director of Strand Partners, a corporate finance boutique that has been given a 6.8 per cent stake. A further 6.8 per cent holding has been put in trust for key employees. Colorvision's shares rose 14p before falling back to close up at 32p.



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# The Roundheads are after the family silver

You have made your pile. You have won the National Lottery, or flogged your biotechnology company for a hundred times' annual losses, or poisoned rich and childless Aunt Maud, who always had a soft spot for you as a nipper.

So you buy the country estate, the 25 acres, the heliport, the works. You install a trusted and competent estate manager to look after it for you for the duration of your world cruise.

You would find it more than disconcerting, I think, to discover on your return that he had sold the tennis court to the Japanese. He had installed a rich sheikh and his entourage in the basement, and was considering a serious offer for the swimming pool. All strictly above board and highly lucrative, the cash piling up even now in your already bloated bank account, he explains, tugging off his check cap. Is there a problem?

This is at the heart of an old debate now revived in the City, because just as you as a household-

er have an absolute right to decide who lives under your roof, shareholders are absolute owners of their company. This is a point often lost on executives drafted in to manage the company's affairs on their behalf, and the annual shareholders' meeting season now under way is not a bad time to remind them of it, I think.

Now, there is a reformist body of opinion that is calling for some of that control to be lessened, in the interests of efficiency and cheap capital. The peculiarly British concept of the rights issue is under attack as outdated and expensive. More streamlined alternatives are being proposed, in particular American-style book-building, putting fresh shares up for a public auction to ensure the best price. The problem here is pre-emption rights, which require, unless the amount raised is relatively small, that all who own the company be offered any new shares on an equal basis at the same price.

This is frequently a confounding nuisance, companies say, especial-

ly those with a huge shareholder base. Consider a hypothetical example. Those companies privatised with large numbers of investors have not yet had to raise fresh funds — they have the stuff coming out of their ears. But suppose a few years down the line one has to.

All those hundreds of thousands of investors, nearly all sitting on a hundred shares and ignorant of their existence except twice a year when the dividend cheques come around, have to be canvassed. Suppose a one-for-four rights issue at two quid. Each has to be mailed a bulky prospectus asking if he or she wants to put a mere fifty quid into the company.

The Roundheads, as we shall call them, want the whole system overhauled to limit the Divine Right of Shareholders. They say it makes the cost of fresh capital too expensive in London, which then risks falling behind compared with other world markets such as New York or Frankfurt, et cetera, et cetera — variations on a theme

we have all heard before. Pre-emption rights, like much company law, have their roots in the days where companies were largely family concerns that were beginning to bring in outside managers. The idea was to prevent those managers unloading the silver behind the family's back.

What is doubtful is whether a book-building system or any other more "modern" device is cheaper,

if you calculate this in terms of the percentage of the cash-raising exercise that never reaches the company coffers but is diverted to advisers, underwriters and anyone else with their snouts in the trough. But it does enrich the big merchant banks, who tend, oddly, to be in the Roundhead camp.

The Roundheads say capital is more expensive in London than elsewhere. This is not surprising — most things are. In this particular case it has to do with the cost of borrowing, which is higher — government gilts, for example, yield 8 per cent plus, a full two percentage points above their German counterparts, and this is the market in which companies raising cash must compete.

These are powerful arguments, especially in the week that saw the Office of Fair Trading prodded awake from its torpor and sent in again to attack the fixed-fee system of City underwriting, a separate but linked issue. The Roundheads have a further argument, that any rights issue automatically brings

in its train a dividend increase. This is because few companies are prepared to cut payouts just after touching shareholders for fresh cash. It somehow seems churlish. The payout is therefore usually maintained on the enlarged capital, although the value of the last has fallen because the new shares were issued at a discount.

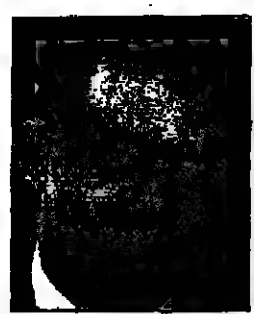
This must push the cost of fresh capital even higher. The counter-argument is put by the Cavaliers, those tending to include the big City institutions who are keen to keep pre-emption rights and who do well from underwriting the present system. They hold large stakes and prefer to have their control maintained. They say dividends should be reduced *pro rata*, so the yield on the shares is consistent. This is fair, even if it leads to the odd position of a big shareholder calling for nominally lower dividends.

The real importance of pre-emption rights is that they are one of the three pillars on which shareholder power rests. Back to

those annual meetings. You can do three things. You can, as the Americans say, kick da bums out by not re-electing the directors. You can kick the auditors out, if you think they are cooking the books too outrageously on behalf of those same directors.

And you can control the raising of fresh capital. This prevents those directors from offloading a huge chunk of the company to their mates from the Rotary club who they know will support them in a fight, without giving you, the owner, a chance to buy in at the same price.

This happens, believe me, in markets that lack pre-emption rights. Incompetent and dishonest American managements have done just this, to spare themselves from the threat of takeover from more competent parties. If we are to throw away this protection for investors in favour of a more streamlined system of cash-raising, then we should be aware of what we are discarding. This argument will run and run.



MARTIN WALLER

## Mindscape blow for Pearson

By Eric Reguly

SHARES in Pearson slumped after the media and entertainment group revealed higher than expected losses at Mindscape, the troubled American software publisher that specialises in video games.

Pearson said Mindscape would post losses of about \$46 million in 1996, up from \$6.9 million in the previous year. Lord Blakenham, Pearson's chairman, said: "The losses at Mindscape will inevitably cast a shadow over the first half year's performance."

The shares closed at 67p, down 18p.

Pearson bought Mindscape in 1994 for \$462 million, making it one of the group's largest acquisitions. The company quickly went into loss.

Stephen Grabner, managing director of the Telegraph group, is to join United News & Media as executive director of newspapers.

## ABC Cinemas set for comeback after £68m buyout

By Claire Stewart

THE ABC Cinemas chain is set to make a comeback in the high street as the result of a £68 million management buyout from MGM Cinemas, part of Richard Branson's Virgin Group.

The new chain will consist of 90 cinemas that are being sold to a management team led by Barrie Jenkins, who until 1993 was head of MGM Cinemas.

The re-emergence of the ABC name comes exactly ten years after it disappeared, when the chain was acquired by the Cannon Cinemas group.

The debt and equity financing of the ABC buyout deal was led by CINVEN, the venture capital group. In addition to Mr Jenkins, the three other directors were former members of the MGM or ABC management.

Virgin acquired the MGM group last July from Crédit Lyonnais, the French bank.

The sale attracted strong interest from potential buyers, including Rank, the leisure group that owns the Odeon chain.

Virgin began looking for a buyer for the smaller, high street sites within several months of the purchase in order to concentrate on developing larger multiplex sites.

Mr Branson said: "The deal will enable us to considerably speed up our expansion plans. Since coming into the cinema business in July 1995 we have become even more excited about the future opportunities in this market."

Virgin's accelerated building plans mean it will add 18 multiplex cinemas, to take its total number to 37 in the next four years. These sites will have 11 or 12 screens with seating for up to 5,000.

The eventual aim, a Virgin spokesman said, would be to link Virgin Megastores direct-

ly with multiplex sites. The newly formed ABC group will be competing with Virgin and other leading operators such as UCI in the multiplex market.

Together with refurbishment plans for the high street ABC cinemas, Mr Jenkins says that he has aggressive expansion plans. "We aim to have 17 multiplex sites open in the next three years," he said. "We are not looking to compete directly with other multiplexes."

The news of both groups expansion comes as cinema-going booms in popularity. Admissions in the first three months of 1996 leapt 31.4 per cent to an average of 2.81 million a week, according to figures from the Cinema Advertising Association.

The total admissions for 1996 is projected to rise to 123 million, against last year's figure of 115 million.



Vestments: Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor, arrives at a City ceremony to check the quality of Britain's coinage with Master Turner, the Queen's Remembrancer

## Abbey National enters the car finance market

ABBEY NATIONAL is moving into the car finance market with the £108 million acquisition of Wagon Finance Group from United News & Media. Wagon, which specialises in providing finance for used-car purchases, will become part of First National Bank, Abbey National's consumer finance arm. Wagon has about 5 per cent of the UK used-car market, offering its credit facilities through 5,000 car dealerships. It has a loan book of £350 million.

Tim Ingram, chief executive of First National Finance Corporation, said the acquisition "further enhances Abbey National's aim of diversifying profit streams away from traditional business areas". Wagon showed pre-tax profits last year of £12.8 million. Abbey National shares moved 4p lower to 551p, while United News added 6p to 698p.

## Fewer insolvencies

COMPANY insolvencies are down 6 per cent on a year ago — a move that business leaders said yesterday was fresh evidence of a sustained recovery in the economy. New figures from the Department of Trade and Industry showed that 3,295 became insolvent in the first three months of this year. The seasonally-adjusted figure is down on the 3,730 company insolvencies of the previous quarter and down on the level a year ago, when the number of quarterly insolvencies was 3,505.

## Al Fayed buys Viva

VIVA RADIO, the UK's first station for women, has been bought by Mohamed Al Fayed, chairman of Harrods and fledgling media baron. Liberty Publishing, the recently formed media arm of Harrods Holdings, is buying Viva for £3 million from Golden Rose Communications, the group that runs the Jazz FM station. Viva was launched in July 1995 and has failed to live up to early expectations, drawing poor audience figures. A relaunch is expected.

## New Costain warning

COSTAIN GROUP warned investors yesterday that its results would be well below market expectations. Shares in the construction company plunged 10p to 89p on the second profit warning within two months. Costain said its 1995 financial results would again be delayed and are not expected to be published until the end of June. In March, the company said that market expectations were too high and yesterday indicated that some brokers' forecasts were still too high.

## Courtaulds wins battle on patent

By Claire Stewart

COURTAULDS has won an important legal battle over the development of Tencel, its wonder fibre.

A European Patent Office ruling that Lenzing, an Austrian company, held a patent over part of the production of the lyocell fibre was yesterday reversed after an appeal by Courtaulds. The success follows a similar decision in the US, which also rejected Lenzing's patent claims.

Courtaulds disputed Lenzing claims that part of the production process for lyocell was patentable. Donald An-

derson, spokesman for Courtaulds, described the European ruling as "a welcome judgment which simplifies life for us".

Lyocell is produced from natural cellulose in wood-pulp and can be spun into a versatile silk-like fibre, which Courtaulds produces under the Tencel brand name.

Courtaulds has invested more than £300m in bringing Tencel into production and developing the brand, and is a leading manufacturer. Courtaulds shares jumped 11p to 421p on news of the ruling.

## Pension review plea

By Robert Miller

PENSION fund managers who look after £350 billion worth of assets were urged by the City's senior watchdog yesterday to co-operate more wholeheartedly in the £4 billion review of the personal pension mis-selling scandal.

Andrew Winkler, chief executive of the Securities and Investments Board, told members of the National Association of Pension Fund Managers on the final day of their annual conference in

Glasgow that they should make "a positive effort to re-instate past service at a reasonable cost".

He added that pension schemes, such as those for police officers and nurses, which did accept back members who had been wrongly advised to leave their professional schemes for a personal plan or not join in the first place, should also show how the compensation and costs figures had been calculated.

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8.17	7.14	7.52
2.45	7.52	2.24
352.00	2.24	352.00
12.27	352.00	11.27
1.02	11.27	0.94
5.500	0.94	4.500
2492.00	4.500	2302.00
171.00	2302.00	155.00
0.354	155.00	0.354
2.716	0.354	2.488
2.34	2.488	2.12
10.42	2.12	9.86
247.00	9.86	225.00
7.08	225.00	6.28
188.50	6.28	185.50
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## A WORKING WEEK FOR: STEPHEN WHATMORE

## Polished spirit endures in Q's workshop

Jon Ashworth meets the man behind some of the extras that turn a sleek car into a mobile office or a bespoke armoured vehicle

**Monday**  
**Tuesday**  
**Wednesday**  
**Thursday**  
**Friday**

FOUR years ago, the mighty Vickers engineering group was nearly brought to its knees by the lead weight of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars. Today, a leaner and fitter Rolls is powering back into the profits league. Much of the progress is down to the team at Mulliner Park Ward, the coachbuilding division of Rolls-Royce, and its commercial director, Stephen Whatmore.

Whatmore, 43, drives the team that puts the sheen on the immaculate Rolls-Royce and Bentley marques. From exotic interiors, to fax machines that slide out of hidden compartments, Mulliner Park Ward has the answer. More than 40 per cent of the cars rolling out of the Rolls-Royce factory at Crewe, Cheshire, have the Mulliner Park Ward touch.

The ability to tailor-make the car of your dreams is spurring sales at Rolls, which bears little resemblance to the company of five years ago. Thousands of jobs have gone, assembly lines have been reorganised into units, and even BMW — heavens above — has been brought in to collaborate on a new engine design. Sales of Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars rose 10 per cent to 1,566 last year, pointing to the success of the strategy. Profits at the automotive division, which includes Cosworth engines, nearly doubled to £41 million, fuelling pre-tax profits at Vickers by 67 per cent to £75 million in the year to December 31. Whatmore and his colleagues at the "personalising" end of the business are well aware of their importance to the Rolls master-plan.

Step inside the Mulliner Park Ward showroom, tucked in a corner of the Crewe factory, and a feast beckons. Gleaming Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars await. Mock-ups of steering wheels, and accessories cover the floor, and tantalising sketches line the walls. "It's a little like visiting your tailor," says Whatmore, rubbing an appreciative hand over an immaculate burr walnut veneer. "You would expect him to advise you."

Whatever you want, Mulliner Park Ward can provide it. Some owners want their cars fitted out as mobile boardrooms, complete with fax machine, personal computer, television, video, mobile telephone and drinks cabinet. A few discreet motions — a tick here, a gentle push there — and the gadgets slide out of view. When one is spending between

£100,000 and £220,000 on a car, one can afford a few optional extras.

Many of the requests stretch the imagination. A European businessman came in and requested the loudest hi-fi ever fitted in a motor car. The team obliged, packing three suitcase-size amplifiers into the boot, and delivering an awesome 240 watts per speaker. The exercise added £20,000 to the cost of the car. "The price is almost the last thing that comes into the equation," says Whatmore. "Customers want satisfaction. They like to feel pride in what they've got."

Owners in the highly competitive German market are tempted by onboard satellite systems, currently on trial in the UK. Drivers programme in their destination and have their route mapped out on a small TV screen. A voice sounding suspiciously like that of the Queen (one of the more famous Rolls owners) commands: "Take the second right after the roundabout."

"I don't think we've ever had two customers order the same car," says Trevor Gay, who is responsible for sales and marketing. "One customer came in to see the base model car. He walked out of the factory with something like £48,000 in extra features." Mulliner Park Ward once converted a Bentley Turbo for the use of a businessman with only one arm. He demanded a duplicate set of instruments to be installed in the rear of the car, guaranteeing a hard time for his hapless driver.

Mulliner Park Ward is a little like Q's workshop in the James Bond films, brimming with gadgets and inventions — and the cars do not disappoint. A

**One can only guess at what the engineers dream up**

closer inspection of one imposing model reveals layers of glass capable of stopping everything from automatic rifle-fire to a round from a Magnum .44 handgun. Bullets will not penetrate, yet a push from within and the glass pops out, allowing the occupant to escape.

Fully protected cars are bullet-proof, blast-proof, and carry separate air supplies to guard against gas attacks. Self-sealing tyres are an option. Staff talk proudly of "retaliatory systems" — a smoke device is as much as they will disclose — and they will not be drawn at all on the "escape systems". One can only guess at what the engineers dream up.

"One of the customer's biggest fears is to return to the car after a night at the theatre to find the window smashed," says Whatmore. "Bricks, baseball bats, pick-axe handles. We offer everything from handgun protection packages to



A dream drive: Stephen Whatmore, seated, and his team at Mulliner Park Ward, the coachbuilding division of Rolls-Royce, provide tailor-made cars

bespoke armoured cars covering all known eventualities."

Whatmore has had a hand in most aspects of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars since joining the company in 1988. An accountant by training, he played a key role in drawing up the company's ten-year business plan two years ago when he was director of business development. His switch to Mulliner Park Ward, working with Jim Orr, the MPW managing director, and a 250-strong team, shows just how important this side of the business is to the wider Rolls management. Whatmore says: "It is the key to maximising the benefits of the Rolls-Royce and Bentley marques."

Sales have picked up sharply in America and the Middle East, and Whatmore is frequently jettisoned off to some exotic destination. He flew in from Detroit on Saturday, in time for an open day

celebrating 50 years of carmaking at Crewe. On Tuesday, he joined colleagues for a brainstorming session at a local hotel. Thursday brought sales and marketing, and yesterday was put aside for plotting the next two weeks. "Every day is a 12-hour day. Every day is full from start to finish."

Visitors to the Crewe factory are taken through the life of a Rolls-Royce or Bentley, watching pistons and crankshafts materialise into engines, and Scandinavian cowhides change into immaculate upholstery. Legendary craftsmen such as Dennis Jones and Tony Kent carved trademark initials on perfectly honed Rolls-Royce and Bentley radiators, taking up to 13 hours on each masterpiece. Stainless steel is twisted in the subtlest way to catch the light, then polished to perfection.

Cars and components are allocated

chassis numbers, allowing owners to follow their progress every step of the way. "We've done away with foremen and supervisors: the emphasis is on teams," says Barry Greenwood, who delights in guiding visitors through the plant. "Everyone has become much more accountable. Times change, and you have to change with them."

Rod Tilley, who presides over the paint shop control room, adds: "The guys are all working in teams. There's been a lot of work in the last 12 months towards getting a body shell that's better than ever."

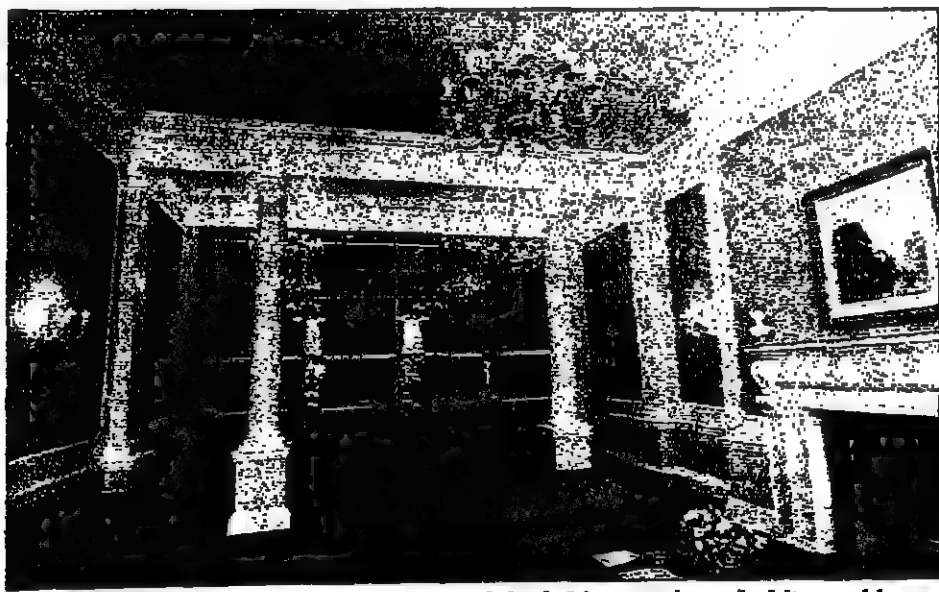
Benefits of the streamlined Rolls are plain to see. The company used to have to make 2,400 cars before it would break even. Now the figure is 1,350. It takes an average of eight weeks to assemble a standard Rolls-Royce or Bentley, compared with 12 weeks in the mid-1980s.

Bentley has the edge, making up 60 per cent of sales. Employees preach "customer value", and typically turn their hands to several jobs.

The tour ends in the luxurious confines of Mulliner Park Ward, where one's imagination is given free rein. Rolls-Royce is famous for never talking about its customers, but a few names have crept into the public arena. What do Chris Evans, Elton John, Frank Bruno and Chris Eubank have in common? They own Bentleys. Dame Barbara Cartland ordered a Rolls-Royce Shadow in shocking pink.

Michael Barrymore stopped by for a visit last year, bringing his poodle. Attentive staff gave the dog the royal treatment. As Whatmore says: "You don't get this type of service from any other car manufacturer." Barrymore's poodle would no doubt agree.

## Balancing the past and the present at ANZ Grindlays



Each room in the house contains an original chimney-piece of white marble

IT IS often said that fund managers, foreign exchange dealers and certain specialist brokers can operate anywhere from Miami to Mongolia provided they have access — on the beach or in the paddy field — to their computers and phone lines.

Given the choice, I would be in St James's Square SW1 if I were a fund manager or a foreign exchange dealer — preferably at No 13, next door to the London Library.

ANZ Grindlays has occupied this Grade II listed building since 1951. Initially on a leased basis and since 1987 as the freeholder. It has had to be sympathetic to the fabric of the house in installing its computer systems, back-up, and high-performance personnel. All modifications have had to be made

in a style appropriate to the period, but there are elements of a modern bank office that simply cannot be accommodated in such a house.

Andrew Webster, senior manager of property services, says: "It is a case of the usual clash between old-style buildings and modern office needs. We are obviously limited as to the way in which we can modify the interiors. For example, we need things like air-conditioning and proper lighting so we have had to think very carefully about how to adapt and install them sympathetically."

ANZ Grindlays has taken trouble to create an environment that meets a high level

## HIDDEN ASSETS

of office comfort and efficiency and is in keeping with the style of the house.

The first house on the site was built in 1676 for Sir Thomas Clarges, but it is thought to have been substantially redesigned in the 1730s by Sir Henry Liddell, later Lord Ravensworth, and to the designs of Matthew Brettingham. Giles Worsley says in *Classical Architecture in Britain, The Heroic Age* that Brettingham was a protégé of Lord Burlington and the executive architect of Holkham Hall in Norfolk. After he began work in St James's Square and until his death in 1769, he was much employed in London and his

designs, many of them with a circuit of rooms round a central staircase, rapidly set the fashion for great London houses.

The Brettingham facade, which is virtually unchanged, is in the English Palladian style, three storeys high and four windows wide, with a doorway flanked by one window on the west and two on the east. In about 1784, John Soane supervised the painting of the exterior. Interior redecoration was done when the 3rd Duke of Roxburgh bought it in 1795.

The Roxburghs occupied the house until 1812. It was then held on various short tenancies until 1836 when it

was sold for £17,500 by the trustees of the Duke of Atholl to the Windham Club, which remained there until 1941.

The oblong entrance hall retains original decorations and Brettingham's hand is visible in the simple pedestal and the Doric entablature of the walls. The east front and back rooms have been knocked into one, and the decorations are largely modern.

Each room still contains an original chimney-piece of white marble in the Palladian taste of the early 1740s. The one in the front room is an Inigo Jones design.

ANZ Grindlays has retained most of the original layout, using the drawing room and library as meeting rooms.

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## PENSION PLAN 28

Why women  
have had a  
poor deal

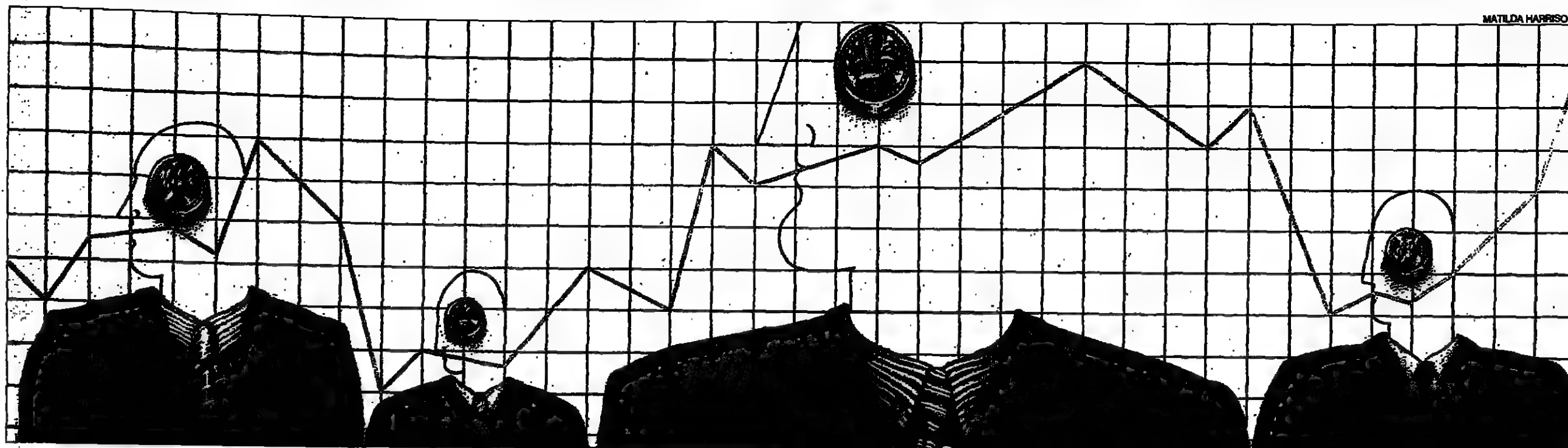
WEEKEND  
MONEY

## OUTCAST 31

Rejection  
of the baby  
bounty hunter



Risks and rewards of coupling your fortunes to the rise and fall of Railtrack shares

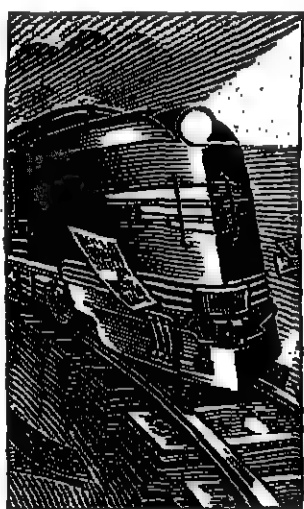
Red signals  
on the line  
to flotation

Marianne Curphey asks whether predictions  
of high yields should be taken at face value

More people have signed up for Railtrack shares in the last week of registration than for any other privatisation, almost guaranteeing the offer will be oversubscribed. Many have been tempted by headline-grabbing forecasts of 25 per cent dividend returns in the first year, more than five times better than the best building society interest rates.

With yields of only 7.5 per cent and 8.4 per cent respectively on short-dated and long-dated government gilts and 6 per cent on utilities, Railtrack looks too good to be true at first glance. However, as with any company promising unusually high returns, investors should treat these figures with caution, and remember that if Railtrack's share price dives after trading begins, the equivalent of the money they made on the dividend could be wiped out overnight.

Privatisation stocks are not quite the bargains they were when the first tranche of BT shares was floated. The only guaranteed return on the partly paid shares — 190p each for the first instalment — is the net final dividend of 13.75p (17.2p gross). This has been declared and will be paid in October to shareholders on the register at 4



September. This is essentially a return of 9 per cent.

Railtrack also expects to pay an interim dividend in February, which its advisers have suggested could be about half of the final dividend, or 8.6p per share gross. The combined dividends would be 25.8p per share, a yield of 13.5 per cent over the nine months from May 20, when trading starts. On an annualised basis, this would be a gross return of 16.3 per cent.

The claims of a 25 per cent return count the 10p per share discount, which private investors enjoy over the institutions'

first instalment price of 200p, as an extra dividend. This would push up the return to 18.8 per cent, or 25 per cent annualised. But the figure is misleading because investors need to know the return based on their own outlay.

There is also the question of political uncertainty. The Conservatives have a majority of only one in the Commons and this week's local election losses will have reinforced sentiment that a general election may be called before February. Labour has not gone into detail about its plans for Railtrack, but says it will increase regulatory controls. This might affect Railtrack's ability to pay the February dividend.

Regardless of any political change, investors will have to pay a second instalment next June. The price of fully paid shares is expected to be between 340p and 380p for the UK public offer (for private investors) and 350p to 380p for the international offer (for institutions and individuals buying large numbers of shares).

The fully paid shares are expected to yield between 6.78 and 7.57 per cent gross for individuals and 6.6 to 7.36 per cent for institutions. Exact prices, dependent on City interest, will not be known until dealing begins.

THE LONG OR  
SHORT Haul?

EARLIER this year, investing in Railtrack seemed as attractive a proposition as biting into an old-style British Rail sandwich. However, the lower-than-expected share price and the various inducements have significantly improved the company's image.

Justin Urquhart Stewart, of Barclays Stockbrokers, predicts that the issue will be oversubscribed by investors excited by the yield. He believes, however, that most will sell out within a year or 18 months.

Although Railtrack is not primarily seen as a growth stock, analysts such as Phillip Epsley, utilities specialist at Alben E Sharp, the stockbroker, are excited by the prospects for diversification into retail, through the development of mini-shopping malls at the 14 main stations.

Mr Epsley considers Railtrack to be "a good buy, a classic Pep stock". He points out that if the shares perform well on their first day, rising by as much as 10 per cent, the company may be eligible to join the FT-SE 100 (Footsie) index of leading shares. This would mean that index tracker trusts that hold the same shares as the index would be obliged to buy Railtrack shares, boosting the price.

Matthew Orr, of Killick & Co, the private client stockbroker, is impressed by Railtrack's high dividend yield and secure income flow. But he is not recommending that his clients stag the issue.

ANNE ASHWORTH

## Trackers for the long-term

Karen Zagor on the value  
of timing in the market

This week's erosion in share prices has left investors wondering whether a downward correction for the stock market is finally on its way and what that means for their money.

The FT-SE 100 index has had a strong run since the start of 1995, but so far this year it has failed to move past a record 3,857.1, set on January 19, though it remains at historically high levels. The FT-SE 100 fell 23.6 on Monday to 3,809.2, regained a 8.7 points on Tuesday, before losing 11.9 points on Wednesday. On Thursday the index fell 29.6 to 3,776.4, and a further 24.8 yesterday, to 3,751.6.

There was no particular reason for this week's losses. Instead, the market registered its general disappointment that anticipated bids had not materialised and concern that John Major's grip on the leadership was weakening. Yesterday, the drop was caused by a

wobble on Wall Street. More worrying than the isolated events of this week is the growing sentiment that the UK market is set for a fall.

Some believe any decline will be temporary, reflecting political instability as the nation gears up for an election. Others say there is little to support the market's current strength and a more permanent decline is overdue. For the many people who have invested in index-tracker funds, these sentiments are alarming. Tracker funds are designed to reflect the movement of a chosen stock market index, such as the FT-SE 100 or FT

all-share. They have performed well in the past year, thanks to rising share prices. For example, Virgin Direct's tracker Pep, launched in March 1995, rose 28.1 per cent in year one.

One of their chief attractions is that they have low charges. This is partly because the very nature of a tracker means that it is not necessary to employ an expensive fund manager to hand-pick individual shares. The danger is that when the market falls, the value of your tracker investment will fall too. And with a tracker fund, there is no opportunity for your investment to outperform

the market. This may explain why, according to Microcap, top UK growth funds have outperformed tracker funds in the five years since May 1, 1991.

Joe Rooney, global equities manager at Lehman Brothers, says now is not the time to put money into a tracker. "Within the context of Europe, we would argue that it is time to be getting out. First of all, we find that a number of markets are looking expensive, both against their own history and in a global context. Most obviously, there is the UK, but also increasingly, there are The Netherlands and Switzerland."

It rarely makes sense to put money into a tracker fund when indices are trading at peak levels. On the other hand, the long-term trend is for rising markets, so anyone planning a 20-year investment would probably see decent gains, even if the market moves lower this year.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

## Why funds are getting bearish

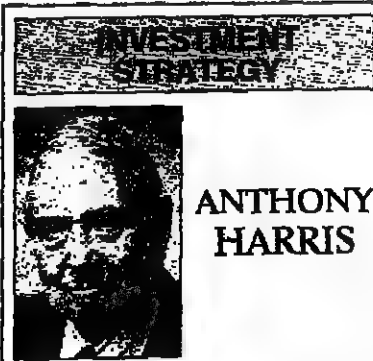
Politics is not the only shadow over the markets. The whole investment scene has changed rather radically in the four months since I vacated this column. The London market, which was powering through the 3,900 mark at the turn of the year, has since then been the worst performing major market in the developed world.

This is in spite of rising consumer spending and some interest rate cuts. It is not just that good economic news can be bad for the markets: it has been the wrong sort of good news. Consumer spending financed by windfalls and questionably justified tax cuts is worrying, especially when export growth has stalled. Meanwhile, industry has stagnated for a year and profits remains under a competitive squeeze.

Small wonder that a bearish mood is now reported in London. So far, this has mainly affected the institutions rather than the private investor, and for good reason.

If you are a gross fund you pay no income tax, so a running yield of more than 8 per cent in government bonds, double the equity yield, looks very tempting. For the private portfolio holder, no doubt paying 40 per cent tax at the margin, high income is far less attractive.

So where can he turn? The continental European markets have staged a tremendous recovery from their Maastricht-induced setback last year as interest rates and exchange rates have fallen: but can this go much



ANTHONY  
HARRIS

further? In core Europe, probably not. The bond markets are already taking an on-time start for a limited EMU, with fudged rules, as a fact but is this good news? Equity markets must at some stage reflect what it is actually likely to mean. All the core European economies are slowing down sharply, although the forecasts are catching up only slowly with reality: stocks are grossly excessive, margins squeezed, and they may be flirting with actual recession. The forecast still look for a recovery next year, but they were drastically wrong for 1996.

And if a recession happens, what can be done? Fiscal retrenchment is virtually ruled out, even under fudged convergence criteria. Monetary stimulus depends entirely on the Bundesbank, which is already showing signs of nerves over the sinking mark. The likely answer is that they will do too little, too late.

The non-joiners, such as Italy and Sweden, preserve some freedom of

action and could sustain their recent strong stock market recoveries for some time yet — and the paradox of Milan, celebrating the first left-wing Italian Government in modern history with a price surge, should at least reassure British investors worried about Tony Blair. But could these economies long sit out a recession in core Europe? That looks too like a long shot.

What about Tokyo, that long-time favourite of British fund managers? It staged quite a powerful recovery last year and the economy is now, at last, growing. But the authorities face a dilemma: they are running what they see as inflationary risks to protect a still desperately weak banking system.

At some point, they will tighten, and the rumours have already started. Meanwhile, the Nikkei index, dependent on foreign support, is beginning to look range-bound, and yields are still minuscule. For well informed stockpickers only.

That leaves the volatile emerging markets, again a case for well-educated selection. Wall Street is up a further 10 per cent this year. Here at least is a robust economy, a real "feel-good" factor (watch President Clinton's ratings), still rising profits, and record mutual fund sales.

The problem here is simply vertigo: p/e ratios are high (though short of records), and the dividend yield is only 2 per cent. Memories of the 1987 correction simply will not go away; and if it happens, who will be immune? All in all, the case for some judicious profit-taking does look quite compelling.

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Many women face hardship in retirement, says Sara McConnell

# Financial flaw in being female

An estimated ten million women, or 52 per cent of adult women, will face financial difficulty when they retire because they have not put enough into their pensions during their working lives, according to research published this week.

Even those who are working and putting some money aside cannot rely on being financially secure because they are not contributing enough. Of working women, 43 per cent will face financial hardship unless they step up their saving.

Flemings, the investment trust company that commissioned the research, argues that the findings strongly reinforce the case for introducing compulsory contributions to a top-up pension, which would run alongside the existing basic state pension.

This politically sensitive issue is being actively explored but no one wants to make a specific commitment to it for fear of alienating voters. Labour has rejected Conservative claims that it plans to introduce large compulsory contributions from employers and employees to state-authorised schemes. But it is investigating the possibility of low-cost voluntary schemes run in partnership between the public and private sectors.

Daniel Godfrey, Flemings' marketing director, said that the company would be actively lobbying MPs on setting up compulsory pension provision with a choice of authorised providers. He suggested that a compulsory contribution of 5 per cent of salary would be a reasonable level. Women find it particularly difficult to build up good pensions. On average they earn less than men. More women than men work part-time, which has excluded them from many company pension schemes.

In addition, women are more likely to have career breaks to bring up families. They cannot contribute to a pension unless they are earning. Many women have relied on their husband's pension but then discovered that, under existing laws, they may be left in penury if they divorce.

The Government has now conceded the principle of splitting the pension on divorce but is still delaying the introduction of changes that would allow the pension to be split at



Dee Moyes is hoping to add lump sums to her regular plan.



Lucy Jago stresses the importance of flexible pensions to those working on contract

DEE MOYES is 49 and has worked full-time all her adult life, except for a two-year break to start a family. But like many women, her pension will be far below her final annual salary. When she retires, she should qualify for a large part of the basic state pension because she has always made full National Insurance contributions. But the full basic state pension for a single person in 1995-96 is just £61.15 a week, with the pension for a couple being £97.75. This is less than one sixth of the national average wage.

Mrs Moyes was encouraged to contract out of Serps and set up a personal pension. But she was 41 when she contracted out in 1988 and some advisers recommend that women over 40 receive better benefits from the state scheme, which is void of large charges.

Mrs Moyes has now rejoined Serps. But the maximum anyone can get from Serps is £101.44 a week or £5,274 a year. Mrs Moyes realised the state schemes would not be enough. Two years ago she started a personal pension. She is now putting in £100 a month and is hoping to add lump sums to try to build up her fund.

the time of divorce, rather than on the husband's retirement. Mintel, the market research group, has used statistics on spending and salaries and Inland Revenue figures on the amounts people have invested in pensions to build a picture of how much women put into pensions. This is the first stage in a three-part survey, *The Fleming Pension Map of Britain*.

ain, that will also reveal which regions will have the most comfortably-off pensioners and how the self-employed will fare in retirement. The survey divides women into five categories:

■ **Ideal retirement:** these women will retire on two thirds or more of their final salary. Long-standing mem-

PENSION planning was not a priority for 29-year-old Lucy Jago. Her time-consuming job as a producer/director at the BBC left little space for thinking about the future. "It took me a long time to get round to it. I kept unarning and alshing, knowing I had to do something." In the end, she took the plunge and set up a pension with Allied Dunbar, because she knew someone who worked for that company.

But Ms Jago had second thoughts about the move. "As a researcher, I was used to asking questions but I felt very vulnerable because of my depths of ignorance [about finance]."

She cancelled the pension after one payment and got her money back in full without any trouble but this still left her with the problem of how to plan her pension.

It took visits to four or five financial advisers before she decided to take out a pension with Standard Life through independent advisers

bers of company schemes paying pensions based on salary can expect this level of payout. Only 21 per cent of working women and 11 per cent of all women, who have worked at some time, will achieve this.

■ **Comfortable retirement:** these will receive between half and two thirds of their final salary. But again only 12 per

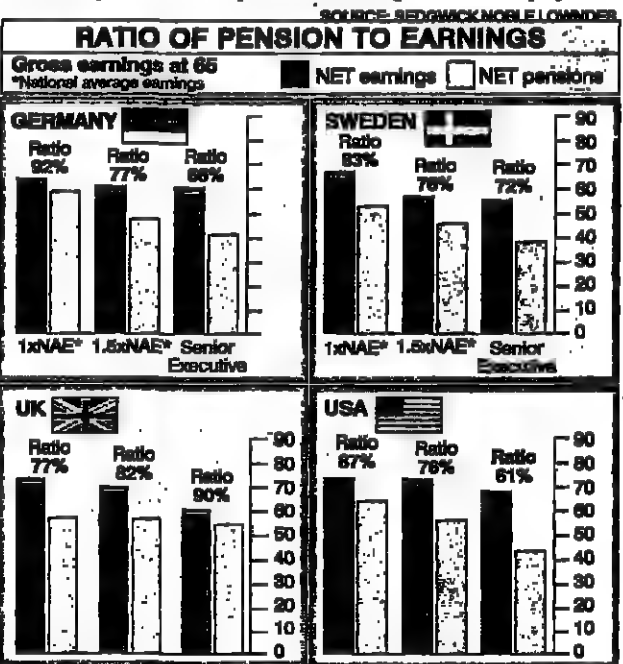
cent of all women and 19 per cent of all working women have put aside enough for this.

■ **Satisfactory retirement:** a quarter of all women can expect between 40 per cent and 50 per cent of final salary. But only 17 per cent of working women fall into this category.

■ **Difficult retirement:** near-

ly a fifth of all women will have to live on between 25 per cent and 40 per cent of salary. Slightly fewer working women (17 per cent) fall into this category.

■ **Poverty:** more than a quarter of all working women and nearly a third of all women will face living on less than 25 per cent of their final salary.



## How bosses and workers fare elsewhere

In a week when Cedric Brown attended his last annual meeting as British Gas's "fat cat" chief executive, readers will not be surprised to learn that executives fare better in Britain than ordinary workers when it comes to pension benefits. In most countries, executives receive a smaller proportion of their net earnings in pension benefits than a worker on average national earnings, according to a study by Sedgwick Noble Lowndes. In the UK, however, a senior executive can expect to receive a net pension equivalent to 90 per cent of net earnings. In contrast, an employee on average earnings will generally receive a net pension equivalent to 77 per cent of net earnings. David West, senior consultant at Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, says the reasons are partly

cultural, partly tax-driven. "Traditionally, UK executives have been rewarded with higher pension levels because of the tax efficiency."

■ **UNITED STATES:** One would expect the spiritual home of capitalism to favour executives, but when it comes to pensions, employees get a greater part of the pot. A person on average earnings can expect a pension of 87 per cent of earnings; a senior executive gets a more modest 61 per cent. Of course, the base from which an executive's pension is calculated is far higher than an average salary, and executives are also rewarded with share options and other perks that can boost their retirement income. US pensions usually include social security and private pensions. Most employees

participate in employer-sponsored pension plans. At present, the normal retirement age is 65 for men and women, but a reduced pension can be claimed from the age of 62. However, the US will slowly lift its minimum retirement age to 67.

■ **FRANCE:** Senior executives typically get pensions equivalent to 77 per cent of earnings, while employees on average earnings receive pensions of 87 per cent. The state social security system has traditionally been generous, but rising unemployment has led to a drop in contributions, leaving the system in crisis. Men and women can take retirement between 60 and 65. All commercial and industrial enterprises make supplementary pension provisions for employees, on top of

social security. There are no self-administered schemes. Any company with more than 50 employees is required to share profits using a pre-determined formula. Private plans are rare, but may become more popular as social security is cut back.

■ **GERMANY:** Senior executives can expect to retire on 66 per cent of their net earnings, while employees on average income retire on 92 per cent. The normal retirement age is 65, but employees who satisfy certain requirements can retire on a full pension at 63. It is also possible to receive a partial pension from 62, while continuing in part-time work.

■ **SWEDEN:** The national system provides adequate pensions for most employees. Senior executives usually

retire on 72 per cent of their earnings, while those on average earnings retire on 83 per cent. State benefits are supplemented by universal collectively agreed employee-benefit plans. The normal retirement age is 65 for men and women. Those who retire early can take a reduced pension from 60, while those who remain in work can receive an enhanced pension to age 70.

■ **JAPAN:** Employees usually receive a lump sum, in addition to social security, when they retire. Senior executives generally retire on 47 per cent of earnings, while employees on average income retire on 65 per cent. Pensions are payable from age 60.

KAREN ZAGOR

### QUESTION OF MONEY

## Leasehold law reform dogged by obstacles

Leaseholders' rights were once more the subject of heated debate this week when the Housing Bill returned to the Commons. Labour had succeeded in pushing through three clauses during the committee stage to give leaseholders new rights. But this week the Conservatives fought back with new amendments. The Government was forced to promise better protection for leaseholders last January after revelations in *The Times* and elsewhere that rogue landlords were making leaseholders' lives a misery with large service charge bills and intimidating behaviour. Over the last two months, ministers have been locked in battle over how best to protect leaseholders.

What were the new Labour clauses?

The most controversial would have given leaseholders the right to manage their own blocks. Freeholders are responsible for maintaining blocks they own, but leaseholders pick up the bills. In some cases, landlords and their agents have evaded legal safeguards and charged excessive sums for maintenance and repairs. Labour wants leaseholders to have the right to set up a management company, which would employ its own agent. The freeholder would have the right to belong to the management company but the majority of leaseholders would control costs.

Why didn't the Conservatives agree?

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, says that such a move would deprive freeholders of their rights without compensation and could be challenged in the European Court.

So what do the Tories propose instead?

They introduced a new clause this week (voiced in by a small majority),

which will allow leaseholders to ask a Leasehold Valuation Tribunal (LVT) to appoint a manager if the landlord is failing to manage the property — currently, leaseholders have to go to court. The proposed legislation will also incorporate a code of practice for managing agents, drawn up by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. But as MPs pointed out, no one knows how strict the code will be or how LVTs will cope with the increased workload.

You said there were three Labour clauses.

Yes, Labour also sought to abolish the "low rent test" for leaseholders wanting to buy the freehold. Currently, leaseholders only qualify to buy if they have a long lease (originally more than 21 years) and are paying a "low rent", defined by complex formulae depending on when the lease was granted. Many long leaseholders pay a nominal ground rent to qualify on this score, but some people, particularly in central London, have rents set too high to qualify. In some cases, landlords set rents high to stop people enfranchising.

Did the Conservatives not like this either?

No. They argued that it is vital to differentiate between "real" leaseholders, who are homeowners in all but name, and those who are really tenants, although they have long leases, and who should be excluded from the right to buy the freehold. A successful Conservative amendment abolishes the low rent test for all leases of 50 years or more, originally, instead of abolishing the test altogether. The Tories also reversed Labour's third new clause, which would have allowed leaseholders to buy the freehold of blocks where up to 25 per cent of the space is commercial.

SARA MCCONNELL

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## How to develop mutual mistrust

Critical, unruly shareholders are part of a company chief executive's well-paid lot. If a group opposed to a certain policy disrupts the annual general meeting, the rebels can be ejected from the venue, but not from the shareholders' register.

Building society bosses have no need to be so tolerant or democratic. As has emerged this week, societies enjoy far more draconian powers than corporate bodies to expel investors whose motives may be suspect. Provided that the rules of the society permit it, savers can be judged to be unwelcome speculators, and have their accounts closed, with no reason given and no redress.

As our report on page 31 shows, this has been the fate suffered by some of those who have recently opened accounts with two societies, Loughborough and National Counties.

Both these determinedly independent societies believe



**COMMENT**  
**ANNE ASHWORTH**  
Personal Finance  
Editor

that recent members are interested only in takeover windfalls. However, the ban on new accounts extends to babies, not the most obvious class of carpetbaggers, and to others who were only looking for a good home for their savings.

Certainly, some of those who have invested may have hoped for a payout. But no society can demand that all its investors are highly principled, passionate advocates of mutualism. It is also significant that, at both the Loughborough and the National Counties, suspicion does not extend to newcomers with larger balances. It seems

that having thousands to invest means that your intentions must be honourable.

The dismissive letter sent to their accounts, contains not a word of apology or explanation. Those for whom the myriad bid rumours and impending conversions in the building society sector have not been the subject of intimate study felt as though they had committed some terrible offence.

They had been found guilty, without a chance to plead their case. Rarely can a service industry business have communicated with its

customers in a manner more likely to misfire.

Closing accounts is an unnecessarily tough measure to deter opportunists. Other societies who realise the paramount value of maintaining public goodwill have been content to raise their minimum investment level, or to exclude savers from outside their region.

The effect of closing accounts will not be to still the gossip surrounding the National Counties, but to make savers even more disenchanted with institutions that once prided themselves on their universal welcome.

### In the slow lane

SUN ALLIANCE and Royal Insurance say they are merging to win more and better-value business. However, the experience of one reader reveals that Sun Alliance, at least, has much to learn.

The reader found that his ten-year-term policy was about to mature. To renew it,

he would have to pay more than £1,000 a year, four times the previous amount. When he contacted Sun Alliance, he was told that the premium was high, partly because the policy was "no longer being marketed". They did supply some lower quotes, but he is now shopping around for other deals. Term insurance is a highly competitive market. But, perhaps, Sun Alliance has not heard this.

The company's inflexibility may mean that it loses a policyholder. It is a characteristic it shares with the other traditional members of its industry. Nowhere is it better seen than in its snail's pace handling of the personal pension scandal.

This week, the industry has finally outlined how it will work to speed up the compensation process. There is also, at last, a guide for the scandal's victims. But from snail's pace to tortoise-like is still too slow.

Copies from the PLA Pensions Unit (0171-417 7001).

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# PORTFOLIO

## Inflation dogs life of Brian

**Karen Zagor**  
meets the pet  
owners who have  
seen their  
pug's policy  
rise 89%

Robert Breckman was less than thrilled when he discovered that the Pet Plan insurance on his pedigree pug had jumped 89 per cent in three years.

The pug, Anjakarn Tyroan, otherwise known as Brian, had not been ill since the policy was taken out. "He's quite an expensive dog, so we have the policy in case he has surgery or we lose him. But so far we have never claimed. He's a lovely dog with a vicious lick," said Mr Breckman, of Chelsea, west London.

Pet Plan, which this week announced that it had been sold for £32.5 million to Cornhill Insurance, said: "We have spent a considerable amount of time and resources in reviewing our premiums to ensure that they as far as possible reflect the claims exposure and true loss ratio in any given area. Our analysis confirms that both the incidence and claims amounts in London are considerably greater than those in the Home Counties and very considerably greater than those in the rest of the UK."

The company notes that London vets charge more and that Londoners take their pets to the vet more often than in other parts of the country. "The Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons annual survey concurs with this analysis in addition to our own research," a spokesman said. "In effect,



Peeved pug and policyholders Robert and Julie Breckman

London premiums have been substantially subsidised for a number of years by policyholders elsewhere in the country."

For London pet owners, there is some good news. The company says it believes that its London premiums and claims experience are now properly aligned and that premium increases can stabilise.

Increased competition in the area may ultimately drive

premiums down. This week Pet Direct, which is underwritten by Lloyd's of London, entered the arena. Churchill also plans to bring out a pet policy later in the year and Direct Line is also looking at the market.

For a free insurance factsheet, write to: Association of British Insurers, 51 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7HQ.

Weekend, page 6

### WHY THE PREMIUMS ROSE SO FAST

PET PLAN maintains its premiums have risen more sharply in London than in the rest of the country, reflecting its experience of higher claims in the London area. But a quick look at the figures shows that premiums have actually risen quite steeply throughout the UK. Three years ago, Robert Breckman paid £94 to cover his dog for a year. At the time, there was no substantial difference in rates between London and the rest of the country. Today, Mr Breckman pays £178, an increase of 89 per cent. If he lived in the Home Counties, he would pay £155.89, a rise of nearly 66 per cent and if he lived in the rest of the UK he would pay £139.09, a rise of nearly 48 per cent. Pet Plan says veterinary fee inflation is running at 20 per cent a year, and that it has had to adjust its fees accordingly.

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Doreen Meredith and grandson Stefan, who was rejected as a fortune hunter



Charlotte Bird and son Barney

## Savers attack 'offensive' National Counties stand

**D**etermined to thwart speculators, National Counties Building Society is summarily closing all accounts that have been opened with small amounts since the beginning of the year. Children are among those being forcibly ejected from the society's books, in a move sanctioned by the society's own rules. Brian Murphy, the building societies ombudsman, is now investigating the situation, which has already brought complaints to his office.

National Counties, a one-branch society based in Epsom, Surrey, is determined to remain independent, in spite of talk that it is poised to succumb to a takeover. Although it is only the 30th largest society, it has plentiful reserves—worth more than £3,300 per member, about ten times the average—which have brought it to prominence. To deter fortune-hunters, it recently stopped accepting any new accounts. The Loughborough has taken a similar step.

According to John Milton, a director and general manager, National Counties has ruled that anyone who has invested £100 or so and has no previous connection with the society is an unwelcome speculator. However, this state of suspicion does

The ombudsman is to look at a society ban on 'speculative' accounts, says  
**Anne Ashworth**



not extend to newcomers who have opened accounts with larger sums.

The decision and the tone of the letter sent by National Counties to investors whose accounts are being closed have angered many readers of *The Times*, who feel that they have been accused of some crime. Steve Auty, a reader from Mirfield, West Yorkshire, called the letter a "particularly offensive communication". In the letter, investors are instructed to return their pass-books and told not to approach the society for further explanation. Indeed "contact with the society regarding the issue of this notice will serve no purpose whatsoever".

Doreen Meredith, who lives in Kent, has been a National Counties customer for 40 years. Her mother was a member of Post Office Permanent Building

Society, which merged with National Counties in 1973. But this long association did not stop the society from closing an account opened for Mrs Meredith's six-month-old grandchild, Stefan Meyer.

The National Counties was chosen not because Mrs Meredith believed it was about to be taken over, but because its rates of interest have always been above average. The baby's elder brother also has a National Counties account but the society did not link the two children, in spite of the unusual surname. Even if the relationships had been known, this would not have been enough to prevent the society from turning away the child.

Mr Milton told *The Times* that having a grandmother who is a long-standing customer does not convey an entitlement to an account with the society.

Mrs Meredith's daughter may now close her other son's account.

Charlotte Bird, a reader from Oxfordshire, is also an aggrieved and offended customer. She transferred £50 to National Counties from an account with another larger society, meaning to add more money later. Her prime object was not to benefit from a takeover, or similar move, but to improve the rate she was earning on her money. She concedes that, like anyone else, she would have welcomed a takeover payout. But she points out that only those with £100 invested can vote and share in any windfall.

John Stones from Lincoln is to complain to the ombudsman about the National Counties move. Mr Stones, a chartered surveyor, believes that it is unrealistic for the society to demand that all savers have pure motives.

"I opened the account to establish a shareholding but I was also looking to transfer my Tessa to the society once it had matured because the National Counties was offering such a good rate," he said.

National Counties also announced this week that it was continuing to bar its doors to all new accounts, whatever the size of the opening balance.

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### Pension Charges Compared

Effect of charges, based on pension of £200 per month over 10 years assuming all investments were to grow at 9%.

	Cost	Final Fund
Flemings	£2,600	£36,355
Church Mutual	£3,300	£35,200
Standard Life	£3,500	£34,500
Norwich Union	£3,500	£34,500
Legal & General	£3,500	£34,500
Standard Life	£3,500	£34,500

Source: Companies' own illustrations, April 1996

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Source: Micropal, offer to bid, gross income reinvested, 3.4.95-1.4.96

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Helmut Kohl knows that the future of his Government depends on the success of his spending cuts and reforms

## Kohl industry cheers UK

Germany's budget should benefit investors, says Robert Miller

Impressive though they are, it is unlikely that Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, had his mind entirely focused on the guard of honour formed by the Scots Guards when he visited Downing Street this week.

Chancellor Kohl is far more consumed with implementing his package of spending cuts, welfare reforms and tax changes unveiled last week. At stake is the survival of his Government. Unemployment is above four million and rising, and forecasts for the GDP growth of the German economy this year have been slashed from 2.5 per cent to 0.5 per cent.

The Federal Government is looking to cut spending next year by £11 billion, while the German states and local authorities attempt to impose similar economies. Whether Chancellor Kohl is entirely successful, the German budget measures do have implications for Britain and UK investors.

Stephanie Pfeifer of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell's European economics desk, believes

that the German budget measures "will boost confidence" in general although the market has already factored into equity and bond prices the view that not all the cuts will be implemented. She argues that the boost for companies is in a relaxation of the regulations on what companies must pay to staff on sick leave and exempting smaller companies from tough employment protection rules.

David Paterson, managing director of Fleming's unit trust arm, says that, although the German stock market has a market capitalisation of around £280 billion compared with France's £260 billion and the UK's £700 billion, it still has the ability to provide extra impetus to the performance of a well-diversified European unit or investment trust portfolio, which could qualify under the annual £6,000 allowance for a general personal equity

plan. According to Micropal figures this week, the trusts which have managed to sidestep some of the pitfalls set for unwary managers include Fleming's European Fledgling investment trust, up nearly 100 per cent over three years. Morgan Grenfell's Europa and European Growth unit trusts have provided investors with returns over three years of £248.58 and £243.48 respectively on every £100 invested, and that is after charges are taken into account.

But underlying all of Chancellor Kohl's proposed reforms is one dominant theme, according to Mr Paterson: economic and monetary union (EMU). The Fleming manager, and indeed many of his City counterparts, argue that Germany is fully committed to meeting the strict economic criteria laid down for the first stages of EMU due to be implemented in 1999. In order

to do so, however, he needs to produce the necessary GDP figures, which could require an interim lowering of interest rates.

In terms of picking the right German companies to invest in, Mr Paterson says that it is very much down to individual stock selection rather than sector or theme. In the past German companies have been renowned for their secrecy and the fact that the dominant shareholdings were in the hands of a relatively few people, often families, which all had cross-holdings through trusts in each other. That approach is now changing and UK fund managers could be the beneficiaries.

The gradual economic integration into the mainstream European Union of the former Soviet bloc countries has naturally had the greatest impact on Germany and there is still some considerable fiscal pain to be inflicted. Nevertheless a slightly more aggressive approach to investment in the mainland European markets is unlikely to go amiss on a three-year view.

JUST as you thought that clever financial engineering had all but disappeared, Scottish Amicable has come up with a gem, and not necessarily one to be proud of. On Wednesday, ScotAm's Personal Equity Plan (PEP) Portfolio went on sale. It is based on a new Amicable Strategy split capital investment trust with a seven-year life, a minimum investment of £10,000 and a maximum of £50,000.

The Scottish life office has overcome the annual £6,000 general PEP allowance, which will be invested in the

## ScotAm tests patience of the Revenue

trust's ordinary shares, by holding the remaining £44,000 in warrants, which can then be converted to capital shares in the investment trust. Dividend rights attach only to the ordinary shares: all income arises within the PEP.

The aim of the trust is to outperform the FT-SE 350



index on a total return basis. The up-front charge is 4.9 per cent with an annual fee of 1 per cent plus a £30 PEP charge.

John Cowan, ScotAm's general manager, says: "We regard this as a significant milestone in the development of investment products. The great attraction of

Peps has been their tax status but their biggest drawback is the £6,000 investment limit. Under current legislation, the PEP portfolio gives the client similar tax breaks to a general PEP but raises the investment that can be held by a factor of more than seven."

City investment trust analysts believe that ScotAm is testing the spirit of the PEP rules to the limit. More likely is that it is pushing the patience of the Inland Revenue even further.

ROBERT MILLER

## Planning for retirement? Who can you trust with your money?

A retirement lump sum is often the biggest single amount of money people ever have to invest. It is vital for everyone in these circumstances to shop around before entrusting an adviser with their money. Mistakes can easily be made and the time to recover from making the wrong choice is limited, as many older investors have learned to their cost.

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between 35 and 100 per cent of the pension that could have been purchased by the fund using a conventional annuity. However, investment performance is poor, your fund could fall in value and you might end up with a lower pension than if you had bought an annuity immediately. The Personal Investment Authority (PIA) has altered its description of the schemes to pension fund withdrawal plans to reflect the fact that money withdrawn before the annuity purchase could be coming into capital. Because of this, most pension companies do not offer a pension fund withdrawal for those with funds of below £100,000 if it is to provide their only or main source of pension.

Simon Philip, director of personal financial planning at Binder Hamlyn, suggests £250,000. "We estimate that the minimum return needed for income withdrawal to break even with an annuity is 10-11 per cent. To produce an annual return at this level, it is likely the fund will need to be invested almost wholly in equities."

**B**ut Stephen Phillips of National Mutual Life, says: "People with both occupational and personal pensions who do not need to draw all the income from their personal pension scheme initially could find these schemes particularly useful."

Some may be prepared to tolerate the extra risks because of the position or death. With a conventional annuity, unless there is a reversion payment period or a spouse's or dependent's pension has been paid for in advance, the pension fund is lost on death. Under a pension withdrawal scheme, it can be passed to a spouse or dependent who can buy an annu-

**PHASED** annuity purchase is possible because most pension plans have been set up as clusters of smaller policies. The way it works is that you take a proportion of your policies to buy an annuity and give enough tax-free cash to provide you with an income. The remaining policies are left invested and the process is repeated at each anniversary

until the whole fund has been converted to annuities. The advantage of this approach is that on death, funds in the uncashed policies are available as a lump sum free of inheritance tax. The drawback is that it does not allow one to take the maximum tax-free lump sum from the whole plan at the start of retirement.

For your protection all telephone conversations are recorded. Please bear in mind that the current tax situation could change in the future. Past performance is no guarantee of future performance. The Nikkei Stock Index 300 is an intellectual property of Nikkei Keirai Shingikai Inc. Sun Alliance Investments On-line is a trading name of Phoenix Assurance plc, which is registered in England with No 718035. (Incorporated Office: 1 Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 2AB). Phoenix Assurance plc is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.



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A MINIMUM  
**35%**  
GUARANTEED  
RETURN

AND IT COULD BE A *lot* MORE

If anything's full of Eastern promise it's the Japanese stock market. You can now take advantage of its great potential without risk to your capital, simply by investing from £5,000 in a Lotus Bond from Sun Alliance Investments On-line. After 5 years, you're guaranteed to receive back your initial investment plus 35% or half the growth in the Nikkei Stock Index 300, up to a maximum of your initial investment plus 70%, whichever is the greater. (Japanese stock market growth is measured by the performance of the Nikkei 300.) As funds for the Lotus Bond are limited, we suggest you register now by calling us on the number below.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CALL FREE ON

0500-100-333  
THE LOTUS BOND

**OPEN DAILY 8AM - 10PM**  
**LIMITED OFFER**



## Investors are best advised to look before they leap into an annuity abyss

ity or continue withdrawals until an annuity must be bought. More significantly, where there is no spouse or dependent child under 18, the total fund, less 35 per cent tax, will be paid to the policyholder's estate.

Those who do not die will have to consider the right time to buy an annuity. If interest rates move higher, this could bring a higher income. Leaving it to the last opportunity at 75 may be unwise in case interest rates plunge suddenly. Binder Hamlyn has developed an Annuity Relative Price Index to diagnose when conversion conditions may be favourable. A potential advantage of the other method of deferring annuity purchase through the phased approach is that as you are buying at intervals, you will benefit from rate rises.

HELEN PRIDHAM

## NEW INVESTMENT TRUST LAUNCH

# Century Asian Values PLC



Now I can buy a share in  
some of the world's fastest  
growing economies.

Fidelity believes that the Asian stockmarkets offer attractive investment opportunities for the long-term investor. Over the last 5 years they have grown by 196.5%, that's an average annual performance of 39.3%.<sup>2</sup>

### With economic growth expected

investment trust: Fidelity Asian Values  
in Asia, excluding Japan.

**Fidelity's Asian Advantage**

Fidelity is a leading investor in Asia. Our 22 portfolio managers and research analysts - representing 10 nationalities - conducted over 1,550 research visits to companies in 1995. Fidelity is responsible for managing more than \$10 billion in Asian stockmarkets.

**Fidelity's proven track re**

It is intended that the new company be managed from Fidelity's Home Office.

"Fidelity contributed four out of the top six fund managers in this year's survey, with KC Lee being voted top fund manager by the region's brokers."

by KC Lee, Fidelity's senior Investment Director for Asia. He currently manages Fidelity's South East Asia Trust - a £270m unit trust - which, as the chart shows, has grown by 690% since launch in 1984. He intends to use a similar investment approach to manage Fidelity Asian Values PLC.

To take advantage of this investment trust launch, register now for your Mini Prospectus. The offer will be open for only 3 weeks from 15 May 1996. So act now. Call Fidelity on 0800 414110, seven days a week from 9am to 6pm or speak to your Independent Financial Adviser.

**0800 41 41 10**

**Contact your Independent Financial Adviser or call us on the above number**

**Fidelity Investments**

**Fidelity outperforms the Index\*\***

Date	Fidelity South East Asia Trust (% Growth)	Benchmark Index (% Growth)
Oct 84	~10	~10
Sep 85	~20	~15
Sep 86	~50	~40
Sep 87	~150	~80
Sep 88	~100	~60
Sep 89	~180	~120
Sep 90	~200	~100
Sep 91	~250	~150
Sep 92	~350	~250
Sep 93	~650	~450
Sep 94	~550	~350
Sep 95	+690.0	+441.6

Source: Metrolanal, offer to offer with net income restated to 13.9%.

\*Assumes fund manager put 1993 for individual countries in Asia Pacific region. \*\*The MSCI All Countries (C-weighted) Far East Free ex Japan Index is 1,336%. The benchmark index from launch to 1993 was 1,336% (from 1,336% to 1,112% for the MSCI Pacific Far Japan Index and from 1,188 (the first available date) the MSCI All Countries (C-weighted) Far East Free ex Japan Index. The MSCI All Countries (C-weighted) Far East Free ex Japan Index and the MSCI Pacific Far Japan Index are price indices and do not include any income. \*Source: Fidelity Investments at 1,336 Asian (ex Japan) region includes resources and assets of RAB Corp., US Government and affiliates. This advertisement is not an offer or invitation to apply for shares or warrants of Fidelity Asian Value PLC (the "Company"). Applications for shares or warrants in the Company must be made solely on the basis of information contained in the Prospectus and Mini Prospectus. Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of investments and income from them may change as well as the amount of income net per share the amount originally intended. Shares listed on stockmarkets in Asia can be more volatile and less liquid than those in more developed stockmarkets. Changes in exchange rates between currencies may also result in a discrepancy between the value of shares in local currencies and the value of shares in the local currency. The value of shares in the local currency may also result in a discrepancy between the value of shares in the local currency and the value of shares in the local currency. Fidelity only provides information about its products and will not make investment advice based on individual circumstances. Issued by Fidelity Investments International, regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority, Registered office: Caxton House, Twickenham Road, Kent TN11 9QZ.



# Age should be no concern for savers

AGE CONCERN has published *Your Taxes and Savings 1996-97*, which outlines the savings and investment options available for older people, how to obtain financial advice and details safeguards to protect investors. The guide includes information on income tax, inheritance tax, capital gains tax and tells you how to calculate tax payment. Redundancy, pension planning and managing retirement income are also covered. For a copy of the guide, send a cheque for £4.95 to Age Concern England, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER.

Sharelink, the execution-only share dealing service, has published the first issue of *Crest News*, which provides information on Crest and its implications for private investors. Questions answered in the newsletter include: does Crest only apply to equities, who runs Crest and how will the introduction of Crest affect my rights as a shareholder? For a free copy of *Crest News* or more details, call the Crest Helpline on 0121 200 7733.

The Inland Revenue has published a brief three-part guide to venture capital trusts (VCTs) after the announce-

ment that the first 12 VCTs have raised more than £150 million. The first part explains the tax relief available for investors. The second summarises the conditions for Inland Revenue approval of venture capital trusts, while part three describes what sort of companies may qualify to be invested in by a VCT. Copies can be obtained free of charge from: Inland Revenue Public Enquiry Room, West Wing, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 1LB. Tel: 0171 438 7772.

Some 90 per cent of UK holidaymakers are concerned about organising and keeping their holiday money safe, according to research by Visa UK Limited. The credit card company has launched a free 1996 *Money Guide*, which highlights the UK's top ten holiday destinations and gives advice on the best way to buy foreign currency, travel insurance and medical cover, bank opening hours, and contact details and procedures to follow should cards go missing. The 48-page guide is available by calling the Visa Holiday Money Hotline on 0800 100676.

LIZANNE ROSE

## GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME			
Rates as at May 2, 1996			
Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)	
<b>1 Year</b>			
5,000	AIG Life	5.05	
10,000	AIG Life	5.10	
20,000	AIG Life	5.15	
50,000	AIG Life	5.35	
<b>2 Years</b>			
5,000	Financial Assur	5.70	
10,000	Financial Assur	5.80	
20,000	Financial Assur	5.90	
50,000	Financial Assur	6.10	
<b>3 Years</b>			
5,000	AIG Life	5.98	
10,000	AIG Life	6.23	
20,000	AIG Life	6.38	
50,000	AIG Life	6.48	
<b>4 Years</b>			
5,000	AIG Life	6.21	
10,000	AIG Life	6.41	
20,000	AIG Life	6.51	
50,000	AIG Life	6.56	
<b>5 Years</b>			
1,000	Premier Life	5.80	
5,000	Premier Life	6.75	
15,000	Abbeys Life	6.80	
50,000	Abbeys Life	7.00	

Source: Chamberlain & Bosc 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

## SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS				
Skipston BS 01756 700511	High Street	Instant	£2,000	5.10 Y/y
Alliances & Lancaster 0845 645660	Instant Dir.	Postal	£5,000	5.40 Y/y
First National BS 0800 558844	Demand Depos.	Postal	£10,000	5.70 Y/y
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Gr Nth Postal	Postal	£25,000	6.50 A/y

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS				
Coventry BS 0345 665622	Postal 50	60 day p	£2,000	5.45 Y/y
Scarborough BS 0800 930578	Scarborough 75	75 day p	£2,500	6.00 Y/y
Chelsea BS 0800 272505	120 Account	120 day	£25,000	6.50 Y/y
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	Investment Bond	31.5.99	£2,500	7.20 F/y

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)				
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	5 year	£8,575	7.40 F/y	
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	5 year	£9,000	7.30 F/y	
Birmingham Midlands 0845 720721	5 year	£1,000	7.25 F/y	
Principality BS 01222 344188	5 year	£500	7.00 Y/y	

Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
CREDIT CARDS			
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.92% C	11.50% N
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	1.00% C	14.00% N
People's Bank Connecticut 0500 551055	MasterCard/Visa	1.13% C	14.00% N

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs no insurance
Direct Line 0141 248 9968	13.90% E	£112.86	£101.33
Yorkshire Bank 0345 181920	14.80% E	£117.68	£102.09
Midland 0800 180180	14.90% E	£118.82	£102.49

No. A = All withdrawals subject to 30 day loss of interest. C = no interest free period. E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years. F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable). P = By Post only.

\* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING.

Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)

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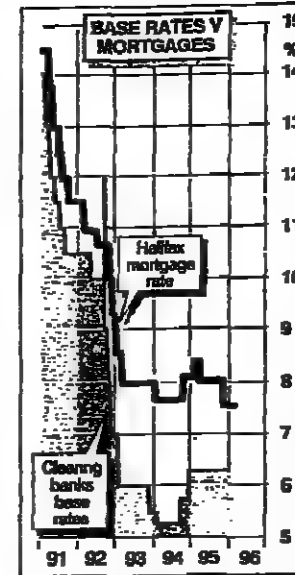
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FT-SE 100 PRICE INDEX

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## NATIONAL SAVINGS

Gross rate	At tax rate 40%	Minimum investment £	Notes	Contact
Ordinary A/c	1.75	1.05	10-10,000**	0845 645000
Investment A/c*	5.00	3.75	20-500**	0845 645000
Income Bond*	6.25	4.68	3,750-20,000**	0845 645000
First Opt Bond	6.25	4.68	100-10,000	0845 645000
43rd Issue Cert	5.35		100-10,000	0845 645000
Children's Bond	6.75		25-1,000	0845 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51			0845 645000
Capital Bonds	4.35	4.98	100-250,000	0845 645000
9th Index Linked	2.50		100-10,000	0845 645000
Pension Bond S3	7.00	5.28	500-50,000	0845 645000

\* First ETO (140) of 1st tax free, inst. accs for up to £100 \* Additional holds up to £20,000 for new investors \* Tax free \* Rates gross and inst. \* Government when held for 3 years \* 10% net bonus for £20,000 \* £100,000 p/a in addition to ST and S2 \* Taxable \* Taxable but cash in full \*\* Tied rates apply

## PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)			
	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential Level	£10,467	£11,495	£12,388
Canada Life Level	£10,238	£11,402	£12,970
MGM Assur Level	£10,199	£11,271	£12,737
Norwich Un Level	£10,281	£11,221	£12,583
Stalwart Level	£10,173	£11,215	£12,513

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)			
	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Norwich Un Level	£9,722	£10,458	£11,549
Prudential Level	£9,710	£10,443	£11,528
Canada Life Level	£9,413	£10,348	£11,473
MGM Assur Level	£9,458	£10,210	£11,344
Stalwart Level	£9,267	£10,158	£11,024

JOINT LIFE 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)			
	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential Level	£9,328	£9,902	£10,717
Stalwart Level	£9,752	£9,901	£10,728
Norwich Un Level	£9,301	£9,847	£10,637
MGM Assur Level	£9,355	£9,830	£10,510
Canada Life Level	£9,002	£9,658	£10,565

\* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers. Source: Annuity Direct (0171 538 2537)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

## FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
<b>Building Societies</b>				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.71	£15k+	95	5.54% disc 6 mths, 2.50% disc 5 mths
Skipton 01756 700511	1.25	£25-150k	95	8% disc 5 mths 1.75% disc 12 mths
Brad & Bingley 0800 252 985	3.19	£30k+	95	3.80% discount for 12 months
<b>Banks</b>				
Bnk of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	8.5% disc 8 mths, 4.89% disc 8 mths
TSB Bank Local branch	3.51	£15k+	95	3.74% discount for 12 months



ALTERNATIVE INV. MARKET		
58	18 Atlantic Reelcat	43
18	95 New York	12
18	95 New York	12
1275	800 Demers Ridge	1,250
168	533 Phoenix	168
3	4 Freepages	3
117	90 Megamatrix	104
475	255 Alameda	159
194	80 Old English Pub	124
175	102 Pelt City	424
141	101 Pelt City	24
100	50 Southern Blvd	116
215	122 Sunny Hill Pk	210
74	48 Trevelyan	88
58	18 Atlantic Reelcat	43
18	95 New York	12
18	95 New York	12
1275	800 Demers Ridge	1,250
168	533 Phoenix	168
3	4 Freepages	3
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Source: Prudential

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\*Figures of report assumed. No significant dollar changes in total assets.

Figures are based on calculations of the FY92 100 Index

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1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991	990	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# Struggler should relish return to minimum trip

*Journal of Management Education*

هكذا من الأصل







# An empire built on tradition

**Richard Evans hears**  
**Wafic Said, owner of the**  
**1,000 Guineas favourite,**  
**praise British racing**

Figure 1. The effect of the concentration of the inhibitor on the polymerization of  $\alpha$ -methylstyrene in the presence of  $\text{SnCl}_4$  at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ . The concentration of  $\text{SnCl}_4$  was  $1.0 \times 10^{-2}$  mole/l. and the concentration of  $\alpha$ -methylstyrene was 0.1 mole/l. The concentration of the inhibitor was (a) 0, (b)  $1.0 \times 10^{-3}$ , (c)  $1.0 \times 10^{-2}$ , (d)  $1.0 \times 10^{-1}$ , and (e) 1.0 mole/l.

The usual yardsticks of balance sheets, returns on investment, bottom lines and cash flow, which have contributed to Said enjoying riches and influence beyond most people's dreams, are cast to one side in return for the chance of joy.

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## Saturday portrait: Eric Cantona, by Michael Henderson

## French artist honour bound in restoring tarnished reputation

Where once there hung a cloud a halo shines. Eric Cantona, footballer of the year and a saint-in-waiting in the secular parish of sport, leads Manchester United tomorrow to Middlesbrough, where a draw will most likely bring their third championship in four years. Without him it is conceivable they would not have won one.

"Où sont les neiges d'antan?" There is no glided past for this Frenchman, only a golden present. This time last year he was "resting" for reasons amplified earlier this week in a Croydon courtroom. As United conceded the FA Carling Premiership title to Blackburn Rovers by a point and lost a dismal FA Cup Final to Everton, the general view was that his absence had cost them a hat-trick of championships and a second successive "double".

For a while, nobody could be sure the Frenchman would stay at Old Trafford given his incendiary temperament and the severity of his triple punishment (club, FA and court) for the Selhurst Park incident. But he stayed, and played, and his brilliance has turned the season inside out. One man, we are told, cannot win or lose a championship. Says who? Take away Cantona's contribution this year and Newcastle United would already be champions. He scored the only goal in matches against Newcastle, Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur that had to be won and did more than anybody to beat Chelsea in a memorable FA Cup semi-final. His goals were dramatic, too, scored with the flourish of a man who never doubts his value.

Even by Cantona's combustible standards it has been an eventful year. Last season he was the Flying Dutchman, destined to roam the seas for ever. No port would have him. Suddenly he is Parsifal, the innocent fool, "enlightened through compassion". It took Richard Wagner 40 years to make that leap: Cantona has transformed himself within 15 months.

No foreign player has left such a deep impression on English football: not those World Cup winners.

Ardisles and Klinsmann, not going back a bit — Bert Trautmann. People wanted to think the worst of him and, to be honest, he presented a pretty big target. Instead, he has achieved what he could never do in France, fulfilled his talent, and, fingers crossed, reformed a character that appeared untameable. Those journalists who opposed his nomination as footballer of the year, partly because he chooses not to speak to the press, made themselves look small-minded. Whenever did a footballer say anything worth reporting?

You have to go back to Kenny Dalglish to find a player so adept at making and taking match-winning goals. Dalglish, it should be said, had an expert goalscorer alongside him at Liverpool in Ian Rush, with Soumess, Whelan,

**'He stayed, and played, and his brilliance has turned the season inside out'**

Hansen and Lawrenson, outstanding players, lending strong support. The present United side has a good goalkeeper in Schmeichel, an occasionally dazzling outfield player in Giggs and some keen youngsters. Deprived of their No 7 they would not be nearly so successful.

In particular, Cantona, 29, has had to carry the man Alex Ferguson bought last year to fill the net with goals. Andy Cole cuts a waltz figure, publicly abandoned by Cantona, apparently unable to pick up the frequency of United's attacking play. If Cole cannot score regularly in the Premiership, how will he torment European defences?

Where Cantona is concerned, the manager's judgment has been vindicated and his trust returned in full measure. He gambled in buying him from Leeds United, with whom he had won a champ-

ionship medal, and gambled again when he decided to retain him. He was accused at the time of appeasing a lawless mob and the subsequent departure of Hughes, Ince and Kanchelskis left Ferguson vulnerable to the darts of fly-by-night supporters. Last August the Manchester Evening News asked readers to judge his fitness for the job: it took a brave man to stand his ground and he has been rewarded richly by the man he defended when the sky was falling.

In a way it is a tribute to British tolerance that such a strong Frenchman has played his best football here. When President Chirac presented Gérard Depardieu with the Légion d'honneur in Paris on Thursday he referred to the actor's "heart, intelligence, strength, sensibility and fantasy". They are qualities Cantona shares with Depardieu, for they both possess that rare compound of physical strength and delicacy. Depardieu tends his own vines, Cantona paints and is learning the trumpet. Both would be handy in and around the scrum.

Now the question is can Cantona, at the height of his career, reclaim his place in the France team? He was stripped of the captaincy after the Selhurst Park nonsense and has not added to his 44 caps. All he can do is wait for Aimé Jacquet, who is expected to announce his squad two days after the FA Cup Final, to offer a wild card.

It would be stretching a point to say that they have missed him, for this is boom time for French football. Unbeaten in 21 games, with Youri Djorkaeff, of Paris Saint-Germain, in harmony with Zinedine Zidane, of Bordeaux, and with a handful of Italian-based players supplying depth, they will start the European championship this summer among the favourites. Jacquet, in any case, is not bowled over by Cantona's English achievements, reckoning that anybody can impress against such loose defences.

It is not difficult to find fault with much of English football. So much of it is unutterably foul: the complacent players, mendacious managers, those pier-end comedi-



ILLUSTRATION: STEVE MARTIN

ans who host a fantasy football lark on the box, metropolitan trendies who have turned the game into a "lifestyle accessory", unspeakable supporters and uncritical broadcasters who boost what is, after all, only a game.

At its best, though, it is a game that can touch people with a strange purity. Standing on the terraces at Maine Road 60 years ago, Neville Cardus heard a man bellow "finesse!" when Peter Doherty essayed a pass. The man,

Cardus noted, would never have used that word in the normal run of things. It was not part of his vocabulary. For that moment he had been touched, liberated almost, by a footballer's skill.

Anybody who has caught Cantona this season might have felt the same way. The qualities of sportsmen are frequently exaggerated but Cantona has accomplished something worth celebrating. All right, he loves himself and is a frightful pseud. Anybody

who numbers Jim Morrison and Mickey Rourke among his heroes is clearly a few centimes short of a franc, and he lays on the thoughtful artist a bit much.

But he can certainly play and has restored the game to those who despaired of seeing an old-fashioned footballer again, someone who knows that less means more. He has been lauded excessively by some United supporters ("Monet is painting his pictures again"), maligned unfairly by detractors

and, through it all, has kept his own counsel, letting his performances do service for the man.

He could have sunk like a pebble. Instead, through immense skill, force of character and no little dignity, he has reclaimed his reputation. He has been chivalrous, modest and served the team. He has adorned the game and brought joy to thousands. It is quite a story.

Leading article, page 19

## THE TIMES MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP TOMORROW

**ARSENAL v BOLTON**

A strange season for Bruce Rioch, in which Arsenal have rarely shined but they are still only a win away from qualifying for the UEFA Cup next season. It says much for their durability, especially as they have had to do without the rock-solid Tony Adams for so long. For Bolton, who have been in the relegation zone since the start of the season, it is a relief to have a safe route to where you belong. At least Stubbs, the Bolton defender, has one last chance to impress Rioch, his former manager, before the trophy opens. Stubbs for Highway next season? Set on it.

**LAST SEASON:** No fixture.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** No fixture.

**ARSENAL (from):** D. Seaman, L. Dixon, N. Winterburn, A. Linighan, M. Keown, S. Marshall, R. Partridge, D. Platt, D. Bergkamp, J. Harrison, P. Wiersma, I. Wright, S. Morrow, P. Shaw, M. Hoes.

**BOLTON (from):** G. Ward, G. Bannister, J. Phillips, S. Curcio, S. Coleman, C. Fairclough, J. McKinley, A. Stubbs, S. Sellers, F. de Freitas, A. Thompson, D. Lee, M. Pashayan, S. Green, S. Small, A. Todd, N. Blake.

**CHELSEA v BLACKBURN**

An emotional afternoon at the Bridge tomorrow, with Glenn Hoddle making his Chelsea farewell. He has accepted the most unwanted job in football, that of England manager, and will foster the delights of the King's Road for downcast Mourinho and Thibaut in the coming months. More fool him. The headlines are already being scripted: "Go, Glenn, in the name of Hod go!" "What a load of twaddle, Hoddle!" "Glenn's glitter flop again!" In comparison, working alongside Ian Brown was a piece of cake.

**LAST SEASON:** Chelsea 1 Blackburn 2.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** —, 1-2, —, —, 0-1, 1-2, 1-2.

**CHELSEA (from):** D. Kharin, D. Petrescu, D. Lee, A. Myers, C. Burley, R. Guillot, D. Wise, N. Spackman, S. Minto, J. Spencer, M. Hughes, D. Roccato, G. Peacock, K. Hitchcock, P. Furlong, S. Johnson.

**BLACKBURN (from):** T. Flowers, J. Kenna, T. Sherwood, C. Hendry, S. Ripley, K. Galloway, J. Wilcox, N. Barker, G. Fenton, M. McKinley, H. Birt, L. Bonham, P. Warhurst, G. Croft, C. Coleman, M. Newell, J. Beattie.

**COVENTRY v LEEDS**

But for their early-season form, Leeds would be snapping it out with the Premiership also-rans. Thirteen defeats in 18 matches, including their last six in a row, have helped further pressure on Howard Wilkinson, who apparently finished a close second in the England managerial stakes. With their confidence shattered, Wilkinson's weary troops are unlikely to put up too much of a struggle as Coventry, all guns blazing, secure their safety in a blitz of brilliance. Big Ben could not have been managed if any better.

**LAST SEASON:** Coventry 2 Leeds 1.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** —, 1-1, 0-3, 3-3, 0-2, 2-1.

**COVENTRY (from):** S. Ogilvie, A. Pickering, L. Dashi, R. Shaw, D. Burrows, G. Strachan, E. Jess, K. Richardson, J. Salako, D. Dublin, N. Wheeler, P. Ndlovu, M. Hall, B. Burrows, P. Teller, W. Boland, J. Flett.

**LEEDS (from):** J. Laidlaw, G. Kelly, D. Whelan, P. Beesley, N. Worthington, A. Cousins, M. Tinker, G. Mollister, C. Palmer, A. Gray, P. Mearns, L. Radebe, R. Bownman, J. Blunt, M. Beesley.

**EVERTON v ASTON VILLA**

Everton, with Horne and Hinchcliffe back from suspension, could just escape into Europe. A record of only three defeats in 18 Premiership outings suggests they deserve the chance. Of greater significance is the appearance of Southgate, the Villa centre back, who returns to the fray after recovering from knee ligament damage. He needs a good run-out to enhance his chances of making Venables's Euro 96 squad and, such is his defensive or midfield versatility, he can back his place now, as long as the lines hold up.

**LAST SEASON:** Everton 2 Aston Villa 2.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 2-0, 3-0, —, 1-1, 3-3, 1-0, 0-2, 1-0, 0-1, 2-2.

**EVERTON (from):** N. Southall, M. Hollister, D. Watson, G. Short, A. Hinchcliffe, R. Unwin, A. Kanchelskis, A. Grant, B. Horne, J. Parkinson, A. Linpar, S. Stuart, D. Amokachi, P. Rideout, M. Branch, J. Kearson.

**ASTON VILLA (from):** M. Smith, S. Murray, A. Wright, U. Ziege, P. McCull, S. Scowthorpe, S. Staunton, M. Draper, A. Townsend, D. York, S. Mitrovic, L. Hendrie, J. Joachim, M. Oakes.

**MANCHESTER CITY v LIVERPOOL**

Liverpool have little to enthuse about, and could well be in self-protective mode with the FA Cup Final in mind, but City still appear destined for the English League. They have hung on doggedly after the most appalling of starts — nine defeats in 11 matches — yet Alan Ball has always known that everything was stacked against him. The weather, pitches, referees, opponents, lucky bounces, deflections, etc. If City go down, perhaps he might take just a minute to examine the contribution of his players.

**LAST SEASON:** Manchester City 2 Liverpool 1.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 1-0, 0-1, —, 1-4, 0-3, 2-1, 1-1, 1-1, 2-1.

**MAN CITY (from):** E. Inman, N. Summerbee, K. Symons, K. Curle, I. Brightwell, M. Brown, G. Kinkaid, S. Lomas, N. Clough, U. Rie, N. Quinn.

**LIVERPOOL (from):** M. Kewell, M. Phillips, M. Margreth.

**LIVERPOOL (from):** D. James, J. McRobert, R. Jones, M. Wright, P. Baldy, J. Scallan, N. Ruddock, S. McManaman, J. Redknapp, J. Barnes, S. Collymore, R. Fowler, I. Rush, M. Kennedy, A. Warner, D. Matteo.

**MIDDLESBROUGH v MANCHESTER UNITED**

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough player-manager, will urge on his players to upset the applicant tomorrow but, unless there is something strange lurking around the corner, United must clinch the championship for the third time in four seasons. All the closest United supporters can then come crawling out of woodwork from Thornton Heath to Tibburdy, and tell us what a great side they are and how they have always supported them. Sour grapes? You bet. The trouble is, Alex Ferguson's side can only get better.

**LAST SEASON:** No fixture.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** —, 1-0, —, —, 1-1, —.

**MIDDLESBROUGH (from):** A. Miller, G. Walsh, N. Cox, S. Vickers, N. Pearson, D. Whyte, P. Whelan, Brannan, P. Stamp, J. Pollock, G. Kavanagh, J. Vanho, R. Mustoe, N. Barry, J. A. Farrant, A. Campbell.

**MAN UNITED (from):** P. Schmeichel, G. Neville, D. May, G. Pallister, P. Neville, D. Irwin, L. Sharpe, D. Beckham, R. Keane, A. Cole, E. Cantona, R. Giggs, P. Scholes, B. McClair, P. Parker, A. Cotton.

**NEWCASTLE v TOTTENHAM**

Teddy Sheringham should stick to scoring goals. During a recent low-key appearance on *They Think It's All Over*, he most telling contribution was to imitate Lee Hunt's hilarious lung-fung impression of Eric Cantona for the actor, Jean-Claude Van Damme, Mr. Muscles from Brussels. Big day at St James', with Newcastle chasing the title and Tottenham on the brink of Europe. Pity that neither are likely to be successful, unless there are some strange results elsewhere, so the Keenies saga should clean up on Tyneside.

**LAST SEASON:** Newcastle 3 Tottenham 2.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 2-2, 1-1, 2-0, 2-2, —, 0-1, 3-3.

**NEWCASTLE (from):** S. Hailop, W. Barton, S. Watson, J. Benseford, P. Albert, R. Lee, D. Batty, P. Beardsley, D. Givola, L. Ferdinand, F. Asprilla, D. Peacock, K. Gillespie, L. Clark, R. Elliot.

**TOTTENHAM (from):** J. Walker, C. Wilson, S. Campbell, C. Calderwood, G. Maitland, J. Edinburg, R. Fox, J. Dozzel, D. Anderson, R. Rosenthal, A. Sinton, C. Armstrong, E. Sheringham, S. Nethercott.

**NOTTINGHAM FOREST v QPR**

Just as well Rangers do not need something from their visit to Nottingham — their fate having already been decided by the previous, calamitous eight months — as the boys from the Shalford never won a league match at the City Ground. At least they can now concentrate on persuading his better players, whoever they are, to stay at Loftus Road. For Forest, the season has petered out after promising so much. Unless Frank Clark invests wisely in a consistent goalscorer, next term could see much of the same.

**LAST SEASON:** Nottingham Forest 3 QPR 2.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 4-0, 1-3, 4-0, 0-2, 1-1, 1-1, 1-0, —, 3-2.

**NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from):** M. Crossley, D. Lytle, S. Pearce, C. Cooper, S. Christie, S. Stone, C. Bart-Williams, S. Gerrard, B. Day, J. Lee, A. Slinn, J. Wain, P. McGregor, S. Howe.

**QPR (from):** J. Sommer, D. Bardsley, S. Barker, M. Brazier, R. Brewitt, T. Challa, L. Charles, D. Doherty, K. Giller, A. McDonald, C. Plummer, K. Ready, A. Roberts, T. Sinclair, R. Wilkins, S. Yates.

**SOUTHAMPTON v WIMBLEDON**

Nobody in their right minds would want to play Wimbledon at such a stage in the season, with such a lot depending on the score, with such a pressure-cooker scenario in prospect. Yet someone's got to do it and, tomorrow, Southampton lead the Premiership's most notorious party-pooper. La Tiesse's mind will still be bogging, now that Glenn Hoddle, his soulmate, has been installed as England coach-in-waiting, and it could just be that he has been saving his best to last. Saints to hang on in there... Just.

**LAST SEASON:** Southampton 3 Wimbledon 3.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** —, 2-2, 2-2, 0-2, 2-2, 1-1, 1-0, 2-2, 1-0, 3-3.

**How they ended**

**SOUTHAMPTON (from):** D. Beasant, J. Dodd, P. Bernal, R. Hall, K. McKee, B. Webster, M. Le Tissier, J. Maguire, M. Maddison, W. Shipperley, N. Haynes, T. Widdington, G. Watson, S. Cherton, A. Nelson.

**WIMBLEDON (from):** N. Sullivan, K. Cunningham, A. Kimble, C. Parry, A. Reeves, A. Pearce, D. Blackwell, R. Earle, V. Jones, C. Leachman, M. Caley, J. Goodman, D. Holdsworth, A. Clarke, E. Elliott, N. Andley.

**HOW THEY STAND**

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Manchester Utd	37	79	+35	WWLWW
2 Newcastle	37	77	+29	WWWWW
3 Liverpool	37	70	+36	LWWDW
4 Aston Villa	37	63	+18	WWLDL
5 Arsenal	37	60	+15	WWLDL
6 Tottenham	37	59	+12	LDWW
7 Everton	37	58	+19	WWLWW
8 Blackburn	37	58	+13	LWWDW
9 Nottm Forest	37	55	-7	WLDD
10 Chelsea	37	50	+3	LWDD
11 West Ham	37	50	-9	DLWDL
12 Middlesbrough	37	43	-12	WWDL
13 Leeds	37	42	-17	LLLL
14 Wimbledon	37	40	-15	DWWLL
15 Sheffield Wed	37	39	-13	LWLDL
16 Coventry	37	37	-18	WLWDW
17 Southampton	37	37	-18	WLWLW
18 Manchester City	37	37	-25	DLWW
19 QPR	37	33	-16	WLWLW
20 Bolton	37	29	-31	DLWLL

**WEST HAM v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY**

If Manchester City, Southampton and Coventry are victorious, and Wednesday lose at Upton Park, David Platt's not-so-merry band will be playing in the Endleigh League next season. Probably without David Platt. They should get something, though, with West Ham's rise into mid-table obscurity having somewhat spoiled their usual end-of-term panic. Judging by their collapse at Rangers last week, they are already thinking of sun, sand, sea, surf and something. Almost time to put on your knotted handkerchief, Julius.

**LAST SEASON:** West Ham 0 Sheffield Wednesday 2.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 1-0, 0-2, 0-1, 0-0, —, 1-3, 1-2, —, 2-0, 0-2.

**WEST HAM (from):** L. Makosko, T. Breacker, J. Dicks, S. Blic, M. Pieper, K. Rowland, M. Hughes, D. Williamson, I. Bishop, J. Moncur, A. Cotes, I. Dowle, S. Potts, F. Lampard, L. Skailey, A. Martin, A. Widdowson, M. Watson.

**SHEFF WED (from):** K. Pressman, S. Nicol, P. Atherton, L. Bescot, J. Newsome, D. Walker, R. Binkor, M. Pemberton, J. Shendan, G. Whittingham, M. Duggan, D. Hirst, C. Waddle, G. Hyde, O. Donaldson, L. Key.

**WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION**

**4.00pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday:** Middlesbrough v Manchester United (live)

**4.00pm Sky Sports 2 Ford Escort Super Sunday:** Newcastle v Tottenham (live)

**10.20pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlights)**

**3.00pm ITV The Sunday Match:** Live first division match and highlights

Compiled by Russell Kempton, Julian Desborough



## Ball pins hopes for survival on help from rivals

BY PETER BALL

SOUTHAMPTON and Coventry City go into their final games of the season tomorrow knowing that if they win, they will retain their places in the FA Carling Premiership. There is no such comfort for Manchester City. "One point could be enough," Alan Ball, the City manager, reflected yesterday, "or we could win and still be relegated."

City's inferior goal difference means that they have to take a point more than Southampton or Coventry, the other clubs on 37 points, when they take on Liverpool, the FA Cup finalists, at Maine Road. If all three clubs win, City will be relegated — unless, that is, Sheffield Wednesday, two points better off, fail to get a draw at West Ham United.

Yet Ball remains optimistic. The three of us have not won three games back to back all season," he said yesterday, "so for all three to do it on the last day of the season would be a miracle. Of course Wednesday could go, but the odds are against it."

Coventry have what appears to be the easiest task with a game against Leeds United, whose defeat by Tottenham Hotspur on Thursday was their sixth in succession, the club's worst run for 49 years. Southampton, who meet Wimbledon at The Dell, will have Barry Venison back from a one-match suspension to help their cause, while Wednesday's hope of a forcing a draw at Upton Park will be enhanced by Jon Newsome's return from suspension.

Sunderland and Derby County are already promoted from the Endisheigh Insurance League first division, but there is still a battle for the play-offs, with only Crystal Palace sure of a place so far. Ipswich Town, Stoke City and Charlton Athletic hold the places at the moment, but Leicester City could take advantage of any slip-ups if they win at Watford. However, Watford's revival under Graham Taylor offers them the chance of a late escape if Millwall and Portsmouth slip.

In the second division, Oxford United will claim the second automatic promotion spot behind Swindon Town, the champions, if they beat Peterborough United today; Blackpool and Notts County could profit if they fail, but will otherwise compete for play-off places with Chesterfield, Stockport County, Wrexham and Bradford City.

In the third division, Darlington can claim the third automatic promotion place by winning at Scunthorpe United. At the other end of the table, Torquay United already know their fate — a reprieve. It was confirmed yesterday that the Vauxhall Conference will not support any attempt by Stevenage Borough, their champions, to overturn their rejection by the Football League because their ground does not meet the required standard.

## Dave Beasant is a settled man once more, Russell Kempson reports

# Key to happy keeping is staying out of the kitchen

One of football's strangest stories involves a cupboard, a salad cream bottle and a former international goalkeeper. The injury sustained took three months to recover from, and the victim is still thriving in the FA Carling Premiership, yet the myth lives on. Apparently, the bottle had been carelessly dropped on his foot, a mishap not entirely unadvised to his displays on the pitch.

Good yarn though it is, Dave Beasant would like to set the record straight. "I know how it's told but it just didn't happen like that," he said, the incident still as vivid as when it occurred three years ago. "I accidentally knocked the bottle out of the cupboard and my natural instinct was to break its fall. That's all it was."

Beasant, 37, recalls it with a chuckle, despite those who still insist on the butterfingers version. Yet the consequences were serious, physically and professionally, and were to reshape his career. "The cut on my right big toe, was so deep that it went right through to the bone," he said. "When I looked down at the toe, it was just hanging off." Plastic surgery, a four-inch pin and six weeks in plaster was only the start.

It gave him little chance to impress Glenn Hoddle, the newly-installed Chelsea manager, and he subsequently moved on to Southampton for £300,000. He is now the regular first-choice goalkeeper and, tomorrow, he will play a key role against Wimbledon, another of his former clubs, amid the last rites of the Premiership season.

The prospect of relegation, though unpleasant, does not faze Beasant. While not claiming to have been there, seen it.

done it, or even to have bought the T-shirt, he has experienced most of what football has to offer. The highs and lows, the sweet and sour.

Wimbledon will always hold special memories. He joined the south London club from Edgware Town in 1979 and spent nine seasons with the Crazy Gang, often leading it. "For some of the games up north, we had to meet at 9.30am at King's Cross to catch the train," he said. "It was often touch and go whether we would get the team together in time."

"It was a bit like that then in the lower divisions. You weren't anybody, and you could get away with it, but that would never happen nowadays." Nor would throwing the manager's shoes out of the window at Watford — his gift off — and restraining him under a table until the train reached London. Even Dave Bassett's sense of humour was sorely tested.

Beasant retains his mischievous streak but prefers to take a back seat. "I get the others to do it," he said. "I might instigate things but I let the others take the rap. It was fun at Wimbledon, perhaps occasionally over the top, but we all grew up together and stuck together whatever. It helped on the field; there was such a strong bond between us."

He left the gang after the 1988 FA Cup Final, in which Liverpool were beaten 1-0 and he saved a penalty from John Aldridge. Harsh economics decreed that his stay with Newcastle United should end only six months into a long-term contract, and he endured a five-year roller-coaster ride at Stamford Bridge.

The ups were exhilarating. Two England caps, against Italy and Yugoslavia, a second



The threat of relegation notwithstanding, Beasant is enjoying life down at The Dell

division championship success, and victory in the Zenith Data Systems Cup final at Wembley. Yet the downs were excruciating. After conceding a soft goal in a 3-2 home defeat against Norwich City, he was publicly vilified by Ian Porterfield, the then manager.

"Every keeper makes mistakes and it was a bad one," Beasant said. "Yet the first I knew of Ian's comments was when I watched the nine o'clock news on TV. He gave me a real slating, but the way

he did it was wrong. I didn't play for him again."

Loan spells at Grimsby Town and Wolverhampton Wanderers followed; then a few matches back at the Bridge for Dave Webb, who replaced Porterfield; then the salad cream slip-up. A spell at The Dell provided a convenient solution. "It was an easy decision," he said.

Beasant lives in Buckinghamshire, with his wife, Sandra, his sons, Nicky, ten, and Sam, eight, and his daughter,

Sophie, four. He teaches one day a week at the Chelsea school of excellence, which Nicky attends. "He's a forward," Beasant said. "The one with brains."

He is enjoying his football, too — he makes his 57th League appearance tomorrow — and has received more than the isolated plaudits this season. "It's nice to hear," he said. "You always do the best you can. Some players ease off when they get older but I'm working harder than ever."

## Odds stacked against Scally playing the wag



Scally stands to make £20,000 if he plays

David Powell on the chairman seeking to pull a winning stroke on the football pitch

Chairman comes on as late substitute and scores winning goal as club he rescued from receiver celebrates promotion. When Paul Scally, chairman of Gillingham and Eddie the Eagle look-alike, registered as a player for the Endisheigh Insurance League third division team, a comic cut as bizarre as Eddie Edwards' jumping at the Olympics began to take shape.

Scally would play in the last game, he said. If there was nothing depending on it. Last Saturday, Gillingham secured promotion with a draw at Fulham while Preston North End's win away to Hartlepool United ensured that the Kent club could not win the championship. So there would be nothing riding

on Gillingham's last match, at home to Scarborough today. Indeed, if Scally played, he would stand to win a £20,000 bet that he would appear in a League match for at least ten minutes. The money would pay for the players' end-of-season holiday in Barbados.

On Wednesday, Scally said that he was available for selection, provided that the players had no objection. Never mind that he is 40, wears glasses and has not played seriously for 15 years. If playing for Heston United, a Sunday league team from southeast London, can be described as serious, he had

trained hard, though, he said. "I helped the players drink 60 bottles of champagne on Saturday night," he revealed.

"I am going to leave people guessing until Saturday," Scally added. In the local evening paper yesterday, he was giving as little away as the Gillingham defence, the meanest in the four divisions. "The manager picks the team and, if I am on the team sheet, I will play," Scally was quoted as saying.

Will Scally get a game, Tony Pulis, the manager, was asked. "Not a chance, not in a million years," was his unequivocal response. "I would

love a decent win and another clean sheet."

Another clean sheet would mean Gillingham breaking Port Vale's 42-year lower-division record of only 21 goals conceded in a season, so something is at stake after all. Chairman comes on as late substitute and scores own goal that denies his club a long-standing record. That would be real Eddie the Eagle stodge material.

Perhaps Scally should settle for copying Michael Knighton, who, as chairman-in-waiting of Manchester United, 1999, gave a passable display of leadership on the pitch at Old Trafford before a game. Or, as supporters who have seen him play would suggest, just concentrate on opening the champagne.

## Stark back in style to stake Badminton claim

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

IAN STARK made a spectacular return to international competition with Lady Hartington's Stanwick Ghost when he moved into second place, 0.2 points behind David O'Connor, the overnight leader on Thursday, at the end of the dressage phase of the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials yesterday.

Mark Todd, of New Zealand, the Olympic champion, seeking a third win, is a close third after his best test yet on Bertie Blunt, the horse which he rode around the cross country last year with only one stirrup.

O'Connor, has given himself his best chance yet of winning Badminton by moving into fourth place with his second horse, Lightfoot. Only ten points separate the leading 18 riders as the competition moves into the speed and endurance section today.

Stark produced a delightful test on Stanwick Ghost which earned a ten — the only one of the competition — for his final canter down the centre lane. Stark is hoping his luck holds for today.

Two years ago, Stanwick Ghost, then eight, fell at The Quarry. He redeemed himself at Puncheston a month later where he was eighth, but in August of that year he struck into both his front tendons after tripping out of the water at Auchinleck. He did not compete again until March this year.

Todd is also due a change of luck. He was eliminated at Burghley two years ago on Bertie Bunt for missing out a flag. As Badminton last year, the horse failed the final inspection and was later found to have an abscess on his foot.

The British selectors had some much-needed cheer when the two Olympic longlisted riders, Mary King, on Star Appeal, and Karen Dixon, on Too Smart, produced good tests and are in eighth and twelfth places, respectively.

Too Smart, who is now Dixon's main hope for Atlanta after the withdrawal of her top horse Get Smart, was given a total of five hours' work on Thursday. "He's fit and ready and I'll be taking the quick routes," she said.

Vaughn Jeffries, the New Zealand world champion presently lying fifth, also intends to "go like smoke" on Bounce, the horse on which he was third in 1994 before going on to win his world title. "I could do with the money," he said, referring to the £24,000 first prize on offer this week.

POSTERS AFTER DRESSAGE: 1, Custom Made (D O'Connor, US) 40.4; 2, Stanwick Ghost (I Stark, GB) 40.6; 3, Bertie Blunt (D O'Connor, US) 41.8; 4, Lightfoot (D O'Connor, US) 41.8; 5, Bounce (V Jeffries, NZ) 43.0; 6, Just Jenny (J MacArthur, GB) 43.2.

## Hendry on song with another final in his sights

BY PHIL YATES

STEPHEN HENDRY approached his fifth consecutive appearance in the final of the Embassy world snooker championship as he built a 10-4 overnight lead over Nigel Bond at The Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, yesterday. In increasing a 4-3 first-session advantage, Hendry provided evidence that, with impeccable timing, he could be running into his best form after, by his standards, low-key displays in the previous three rounds.

Hendry, who defeated Bond 18-9 to capture the title 12 months ago, compiled breaks of 52, 76, 71, 77 and 121 — his ninth century of the event so far, his 49th of the season, his 61st in world championship play and the 347th of his 11-year professional career. However, the most telling contribution was the 64 clearance with which he stole the tenth frame on the black, leading 62-0, and on a run of 61, Bond had missed an elementary black off its spot. It was a soul-destroying lapse from which he could not recover.

Thus, Hendry arrives this morning requiring six of the remaining 17 frames to record

his 24th consecutive win at The Crucible. By winning six of the eight frames scheduled to begin at 10.30, he will complete victory with a session to spare.

Eradicating virtually all unforced errors, and proceeding at the kind of methodical pace which, in itself, broke his opponent's rhythm, Peter Ebdon built a 9-5 lead over Ronnie O'Sullivan, entering their penultimate session last night. Ebdon has a poor record against O'Sullivan, having prevailed in only two of their nine meetings. Yet, from the body language of both during the morning exchanges, it would clearly be incorrect to assume that Ebdon needs to scale a mental barrier to reach the final.

Exhibiting great authority, Ebdon allowed O'Sullivan to pot only one red in moving from 6-5 to 9-5. The former Skoda Grand Prix and Irish Masters champion constructed breaks of 93, 57, 58 and 107. Embassy, which has sponsored the championship since 1976, yesterday announced its continued involvement with the game's most lucrative event until at least the year 2000. The newly-signed four-year deal with the game's governing body, the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association, is worth £5.4 million and, despite speculation to the contrary, The Crucible, the championship's home since 1977, will remain as its venue.

### TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL									
Kick-off 3pm unless stated									
Pools colour numbers in brackets									
Endisheigh Insurance League									
First division									
Barnsley v Grimsby									
Sheffield Utd v Port Vale									
P W D L F A Pts									
Scunthorpe	42	22	17	6	59	43	75		
Derby	42	21	16	8	60	48	79		
P W D L F A Pts									
C. Pk.	42	20	15	10	67	47	75		
Sheff Wed	42	19	13	9	58	44	70		
Sheff Utd	42	19	13	9	58	44	70		
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Leicester	42	19	11	15	79	50	68		
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Washington: Two weeks before the opening of the Atlanta Games, a dispute of Olympian proportions has erupted between the organisers and the American Postal Service (Martin Fletcher writes).

The US Olympic Committee is threatening to sue the Postal Service to stop it selling unauthorised Olympic T-shirts. The Postal Service is refusing to deliver post to the 10,000 athletes in the Olympic village. The dispute arose after a congressional edict stopping the Postal Service sponsoring the Games as it did in Barcelona.

The Atlanta-based United Parcel Service (UPS), stepped in, paying \$30 million (£20 million) for the honour. The committee said the Postal Service could open offices in the village, but only to sell stamps. The Postal Service claims the committee "almost panicked".



## House of Orange concerned about spread of unseemly Windsor behaviour

## 'Clown prince' is no joke

THERE are those who chart the decline of the House of Windsor to the embarrassing *It's A Knockout* spectacle in which sundry princes and princesses sprinted for charity.

The House of Orange might, then, have cause for concern: balanced on the head of Crown Prince Willem Alexander this week was a beautiful blonde acrobat in some kind of medieval garb. Worse, the Dutch prince—known to friends and commoners as Alex—looked as if he were enjoying himself.

There is a deep fear in the royal families of Europe about the possible spread of the Windsor syndrome. Girlfriends, potential wives, boyfriends and suitors have never been scrutinised so closely. In The Netherlands, one adored queen, Juliana, handed over to her daughter, Queen Beatrix, who is now 58, and so far all seems to have gone swimmingly. As was evident from this week's Queen's Day celebrations—marking Juliana's 87th birthday and the sixteenth anniversary of Beatrix's coronation—the Queen is as popular a figure as her mother. However, the chubby, clubby crown prince does not seem to possess the same magic. And the closer one examines the family, the more one discovers personal oddities more appropriate to the Windsors: a princess who talks to trees, a queen who relied heavily on the advice of a fortune-teller, a clinically depressed consort, and a crown prince who is said to hunt with dum-dum bullets.

Prince Willem Alexander has come close to rupturing the respectful relationship between the Dutch press and the monarchy with his extravagantly staged hunting expeditions. On the Apeldoorn estate he and his grandfather, Prince Bernhard, made gamekeepers drive deer alongside the royal Ranger Rovers so that more elderly guests could make their kills without getting their feet wet. On another occasion, Prince Willem Alexander was hunting wild boar and there were scuffles between his bodyguards and animal rights protesters. The claim about the dum-dum bullets arose from that incident.

The Crown Prince is 29 and since his 18th birthday has been KJO—*Koning in Opleiding*, or trainee king. Over the past

## AMSTERDAM FILE

by ROGER BOYES



11 years he has not demonstrated a shining ambition for the throne, however. He has a passion for flying, racing cars, deep sea diving and ice-skating. Nine out of ten Dutch citizens regard Queen Beatrix as the ideal monarch; their views on the Prince can only be guessed at.

His girlfriends are now presented to his parents. The latest is a blonde, bright law student who is a commoner and a Roman Catholic. The prince claims that the question of religion is unimportant, although since the 16th century rulers of the House of Orange-Nassau have always been Reform Calvinists. This disregard for tradition may be a healthy sign—or it might spell trouble.

Perhaps the oddest member of the family is Princess Irene, Queen Beatrix's younger sister, who has just published a bestselling book about communing with nature. She talks to animals, trees and rocks and, more remarkably, they talk back. She reveals that she first talked to a tree in the grounds of the Dutch church in London when she was 14. The tree invited her to play underneath its branches. She has never looked back, although she has renounced her right of succession. Sad: Princess Irene would certainly have given the Windsors a run for their money.



Prince Willem Alexander of The Netherlands, right, helps an acrobat to balance on his head during the celebrations for the Queen's Day

## Fight to save Dutch from damnation

A NATIONAL campaign against blasphemy is gathering force in The Netherlands.

Railway stations now carry posters proclaiming: "Missed your train? Cursing doesn't help!" Television commercials urge the Dutch not to swear like troopers.

Anti-blasphemy lobbyists launched a protest campaign against a Korean car company which played with the Ten Commandments in its advertising. The offending advertisement was later withdrawn.

The Association Against Cursing, which was set up in 1917 by Jan Baas, a Calvinist, now has 18,000 registered members and many sponsors (not only from the churches). It never sleeps, and remains on constant alert for spluttered "damnations".

Rijk van de Poll notes that the Dutch who live in the Roman Catholic south curse far more than their counterparts in the Protestant north. He would like to make the anti-blasphemy cause international, but so far it has failed to set the Continent alight.

"Only the Scots have followed our example, with a League for the Increase of Pure Speech," he says.

## Rome ill-prepared for the millennium

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A SENIOR Vatican official yesterday joined a former minister to give a warning that Rome was disastrously ill-prepared for an impending "invasion" of 40 million pilgrims for the millennium celebrations.

The outgoing interim Government of Lamberto Dini this week belatedly approved funds for millennium projects in Rome, including the redevelopment of Fiumicino airport.

Francesco Rutelli, the Mayor of Rome, has been working with the Vatican to co-ordinate joint projects, including the construction of a new underground line from the Colosseum to St Peter's Square and huge underground car parks near the Tiber.

But yesterday Cardinal Camillo Ruini, the head of the Italian Bishops' Conference, resigned as director of Peregrinatio ad Petri Sedem, the organisation responsible for taking pilgrims to Rome for the Jubilee. The post was taken over by Archbishop Sergio Sebastiani, who is in overall charge of Vatican arrangements for the Holy Year.

The sudden concentration of powers in the hands of Archbishop Sebastiani suggests a degree of mild panic. He said he was worried that, although there were only three and a half years to go, many of the millennium projects had not

even begun. The Archbishop suggested it might be better to leave disruptive projects, such as the new underground, until 2004, when Rome hopes to host the Olympic Games.

Alberto Ronchey, a former Minister of Culture who lives in the medieval quarter next to the Vatican known as the Borgo, said Rome was incapable of handling 40 million pilgrims and tourists. "This is an ancient city, not a new creation like Brasilia or Canberra," he told *La Repubblica*. "The residents of the Borgo are up in arms".

Signor Ronchey said the underground line would take many years to build, and the tunnellers would have to cope with layers of Roman history along the way, as well as mud and clay under the Tiber. He said that Pope John Paul II had announced grandiose plans for the Jubilee to round off his papacy, and the city authorities had weakly bowed to the wishes of the Vatican as a "world power".

"Millions of pilgrims and tourists will come here and find one vast open-air building site," he said.   
□ *Agca appeal:* A lawyer representing Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish terrorist who shot and wounded the Pope in May 1981, said she would apply for his release. Marina Magistrelli said Agca had been in jail for 15 years.

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## MUSIC 1

New challenges and a British tour for the virtuoso percussionist, Evelyn Glennie



## MUSIC 2

The LSO pays homage to the composer Toru Takemitsu under the baton of Daniel Harding

## THE TIMES ARTS



## BASE NOTE

A glittering swansong for Gary Barlow? Take That's former muse heads the Novello nominees

## CHOICE

From children to seasoned veterans: see the Going Out pages in the Weekend section for the best shows

# Banging about in the kitchen

Anyone with front row tickets for tonight's concert at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, by the percussionist Evelyn Glennie need not shovel down an early dinner beforehand. They might just find that they are fed during the performance. Glennie will be giving the world premiere of a piece of solo percussion music called *My Dream Kitchen*, written by the jazz composer Django Bates. It involves a full battery of kitchen implements and is written around the act of baking a cake.

The piece will develop as I play it during the tour, but it is actually extremely detailed on the score. My technician has been working out how to hang saucepans and pots to get the right sounds. He has built an acoustic worksurface for chopping and grating and another for the plates and baking tins.

"I play the pans and do some chopping and then pop the ingredients into a mixing bowl. Then I move over to play the marimbans for a bit of relaxation before coming back to the mixing bowl and the baking sheets, where I start getting a wee bit more anxious. I start bashing away at the pans, and chucking the apple cores and bits in the bin and then in my frustration I end up throwing my watch and my cookery book into the mixture before sticking it all in the oven."

"Normally I hate cooking so this is all about my fury in the kitchen. I should have something to cut up and distribute by the end but I'm sure it will

**Joanna Pitman meets the superb percussionist Evelyn Glennie on the eve of her British tour**

evolve and improve with each performance."

On second thoughts, Swatch-and-cookery-book cake may not be ideal for an end of concert snack, but I can guarantee that its production will be well worth watching.

In a musical civilisation that is infinitely complicated and vast, Glennie insists on finding and experimenting with everything herself. She has a mind and a physical awareness that is trained to close and intense observation and she looks at every idea hard, even down to a mere apple core, searching for its musical possibilities.

On stage she is an enormously impressive artist with a visual theatricality as well as an inclusive musicality; and the fact of her profound deafness is the very least of it. Confronted with the live creature herself, you immediately see that all the exuberance and eloquence of her music is there in the person, plainly visible in her face, her tiny, supple body and her softly ringing Aberdeen accent.

Glennie's experimental creativity is her dynamo. She

rampages through a vast diversity of ideas for her percussion music, jumping between cultures and across continents. "The past ten years have been about experimenting, about looking for and commissioning new works, expanding the repertoire written for percussion and expanding and shaping myself too as a musician at the same time."

There is a gleefulness about her as she speaks, and each new concept or observation brings with it a wide, secure and contented smile. It is the sort of smile that shows she has a pretty clear idea of what she wants and that she knows she has the discipline to achieve it.

This three-week British tour, which will take Glennie, her kitchen and her armoury of drums and instruments to 11 cities, reflects this vital and eclectic spirit. She will play African rhythms, Latin American folk, mythical medieval music and some energetic rock rhythms. This demanding tour is typical of a schedule that annually incorporates 110 concerts, a four-month spell in America, as well as trips to Japan and other Asian countries.

You get the impression that for Glennie a life without pressure would be no life at all. She does not mind that she has spent only 12 nights at home so far this year. She loves constant demands, constant achievement and improvement. And it is all self-generated. She would never be able to sit around waiting to be inspired; instead she rushes around perspiring and playing, inventing new instruments (she has a collection of 700 that includes bin lids, spoons and car parts as well as hundreds of orthodox instruments from all over the world), and composing her own music too. Her OBE and her growing international recognition have made her no less radical a performer. And that is why I get the impression that Glennie still wakes up happy in the mornings.



Everything including the kitchen sink: Evelyn Glennie expects her cake-making skills to improve with each performance of *My Dream Kitchen* on her three-week tour

## Take That line up a Novello

## BASE NOTES

THE leader of the sadly defunct Take That, Gary Barlow, heads the list of nominees for the 41st Ivor Novello Awards, to be presented in London on May 30. His song *Back for Good* is nominated in four of the eight categories, including that of Best Song Musically and Lyrically. But ownership of the key trophy, Best Contemporary Song, will fall to either Noel Gallagher of Oasis for *Wonderwall*, the Supergrass team for *Alright*, or Edwyn Collins for *A Girl Like You*.

● FRESH from the early success of his first film, *Beautiful Thing*, the playwright Jonathan Harvey is planning his first-ever stage musical in collaboration with the Pet Shop Boys. Harvey met the group some years back when they contacted him after his first television play, *West End Girls*, whose title derives from a Pet Shop Boys song. The team will begin work on the musical this month.

● THE 41st competition for the Kathleen Ferrier Awards for young opera and lieder singers took place at the Wigmore Hall last week. First prize — £10,000 and a London recital — went to Geraldine McGehee, a 28-year-old graduate of the Royal Academy of Music. Second prize of £5,000 went to Alison Buchanan, 27. The Decca Prize of £2,500 was awarded to Konrad Jarnot, 23.

● JUST 21 years old and with ten million sales of her album *Jagged Little Pill* under her belt, Canada's Alanis Morissette will return to Britain to appear at the four-day Phoenix 1996 festival at Long Marston, Stratford-upon-Avon, on July 19. She has also been confirmed as support to

Bob Dylan, the Who and Eric Clapton at the Prince's Trust benefit, to be held in Hyde Park on June 29.

● IT IS Diane Fletcher and not Nicola Pagett who will lead the recast version of *An Ideal Husband* to the Old Vic next week when the hit Peter Hall revival continues its acclaimed run. Pagett, who is unwell, bowed out during rehearsals.

● THE critic, historian and broadcaster Christopher Frayling has been appointed as the new Rector and Vice-Provost of the Royal College of Art. He will take up his post on July 15. Frayling has been with the college since 1979, when he was appointed its first Professor of Cultural History.

● THIS year's cultural capital of Europe, Copenhagen, is celebrating its maritime location in suitably seafaring style, with an open-air exhibition of contemporary artwork installed in 20ft ship containers. Ninety-six artists from as many seaports around the world are contributing to the exhibition, titled *Container 96 — Art Across Oceans*, which runs until August 31.

● SOME £300,000 of prize money is up for grabs as Prudential launches its 1996 Awards for the Arts. Around 600 arts organisations have been invited to submit entries for the five categories of dance, music, theatre, opera and visual arts. The five category winners stand to receive £50,000 each — double the amount of last year. Rodney Milnes, *The Times* opera critic, will be sitting as judge on the opera panel.

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## Youthful energy

## CONCERT

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AT 20, Daniel Harding is believed to be the youngest person ever to conduct the London Symphony Orchestra. This record was set on Thursday night, when he led the orchestra through a concert dedicated to the memory of Toru Takemitsu.

Harding's style is dynamic, employing vigorous gestures to achieve results of great vibrancy and immediacy. To Britten's *Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge* he brought a sweeping line, not least in a poignantly realised *Funeral March*.

John Williams was the distinguished soloist in two

works for guitar and orchestra, the first, *Concerto Antico*, by Richard Harvey, receiving its London premiere. Harvey's biography describes him as "primarily a film and TV music composer", and indeed the mock-Tudor colours and rhythms of his concerto would have served nicely for a costume drama.

Harding's immediacy is a less obvious virtue in music that explores states of the subconscious — such as Takemitsu's *To the Edge of Dream*. And, with the solo guitar amplified, I wondered whether there should have been a more persuasive sense of floating, of something distant and ethereal.

Conductor and orchestra were incontrovertibly in their element, however, in Bartók's *Miraculous Mandarin* suite. Harding has an impressive mastery of the scores he conducts, enabling him to deliver performances brimming with confidence and panache.

BARRY MILLINGTON

## THE SUNDAY TIMES



Dana Scully and Fox Mulder are specialists in investigating weird goings-on. And so extraordinary is the global success of their TV series *The X-Files*, they might have to make it their next case...

Russell Miller contacts the stars, in *The Sunday Times Magazine*

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Due to a squalid deal between Greens, farmers and government, the British landscape is being scarred by dark, satanic wind towers

Last month the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, stood in the House of Commons and announced a subsidy of £118 million to the beef rendering industry, to soothe its ruffled finances in consolation for causing the greatest food scare in Britain since the war. In a normal industry, the renderers might be sued by their customers and left to go bankrupt. I had to pinch myself. This was no normal industry, it was farming. It holds the taxpayer to ransom. Any business such as rendering that can plead kinship with farming is able to do likewise.

Farmers last month savaged airlines, steak houses and hamburger chains for "not backing British beef". They did not save the renderers. But airlines, steak houses and hamburger chains are outside the charmed circle of Mr Hogg's friends. They are too far down the food chain to claim subsidy. Serve up dodgy beef and they go to the wall. Those who supplied them with the beef are compensated. And this is called a government for private enterprise.

Who, you might ask, will be next to seize on the word "farming" and demand subsidy? I can tell you. The answer is the second most pampered "private" industry in Britain, electricity supply.

Most readers of this article — so marketing tells me — now holiday abroad. They leave the countryside

## Old Macdonald had a wind farm

Simon Jenkins

to plebs in caravans and foreigners. They assume government will look after the countryside until they retire. Most readers, therefore, will not have visited Cornwall of late. Parts of that county not already desecrated with caravans and bungalows are being devastated with wind turbines.

Drive along the north Cornish coast today and you will get a shock. From St Ives eastwards, the land rises gently towards Bodmin Moor and then Exmoor. It is near impossible to walk or drive this coast and not be within sight of the rotating wind towers of St Breock, Delabole and Cold Northcott. They claim to cover just a few acres. They do not. Their wild, gesticulating intrusion covers the entire coast. Seven more such clusters are planned for the county.

The same shock awaits visitors to mid-Wales. The headwaters of the Wye and the Severn penetrate the most desolate countryside south of Scotland. These Powys hills are now dominated by 103 towers stretching in rows on the hills above Llanidloes. The Dovey Valley in Snowdonia is punctuated by 24 turbines placed on a hill above Cemmaes and visible from the

Cader and Plynlimon ranges. Twenty-four more clusters are proposed for Wales. In Yorkshire, a generating station above Hebden Bridge looms over the finest scenery in the Pennines. A proposal to erect an initial 37 towers along the unspoilt south coast of Caithness is barely believable.

I imagined that energy science might one day be able to put underground its worst plague on the face of the British countryside, the electricity pylon. I scarcely believed that it would come up with something even more obtrusive. Nor did I imagine that by allying itself to the Green lobby and calling its generators "wind farms", the energy industry would be able to demand subsidy for their intrusion.

These generators are nothing to do with either farming or cheap energy. They are the product of a deal between Greens, farmers and government. The king of the wind farms, the Energy Minister Tim Eggar, both offers subsidies to build turbines and levies a tax on every fuel bill to pay for the more expensive energy they generate. This deal was under the 1990 Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation, a crude concession to the Green lobby and

Jonathon Porritt's Friends of the Earth made in Lady Thatcher's last months in power.

If the Brent Spa fiasco did not convince me that this lobby is a serious threat to the environment, its support for the wind turbine industry will do so. I was amazed to visit the Delabole generating station in Cornwall and find Green literature on the shelf alongside manufacturers' handouts. Outside, a once-lovely landscape was rent by whirling rotors and rumbling turbines. The manufacturers claim that the locals like them. Everybody likes subsidy. I hope Cornwall (and Wales and Yorkshire) likes a plummeting tourist income.

Wind is not free energy. There is no such thing. If wind power were free, or even cheap, there would

have been wind "farms" before the Government began to subsidise them in 1990. Wind power costs money to collect and distribute, money to build, equip and service, money to inflated fuel bills. It costs direct subsidy from Mr Eggar.

Nor are these the only charges. Greens love to cite "external costs" attributable to other forms of power generation. Porritt applies what he calls full-cost pricing to every energy source — except that to which he has lent his name. His lobby claims wind power is wholly "non-polluting". He cannot have stood in a field of turbines, let alone seen them across an upland slope.

Every user of the countryside knows that visual pollution is unquantifiable, hard to control and even harder to reverse. Once built, these towers will remain forever (all "farm" subsidy is forever), or their sites will be converted to other industrial uses.

These are not rural structures. They are not like the windmills of old, no bigger than church towers and made of local materials. They are power stations, made of metal and towering to a height of more than 200 feet (Nelson's Column is

170 feet). Whereas ordinary cooling towers are clustered, usually in a hollow or on flat country, these towers dominate thousands of acres. Indeed the British Wind Energy Association recommends mounting turbines "on as high a tower as possible and well clear of obstructions such as buildings, trees, etc". These are not monuments, like standing stones. The constant gesticulating motion distracts the eye and destroys tranquillity for miles around.

I would like to feel that this subject was controversial. Discuss it with ministers, civil servants or MPs and I realise that they do not use the British landscape any more. Their landscape is that of France and Italy. The Department of Industry reassures wind farm investors that "there are well-established procedures for handling the issue" of environmental sensitivity. That procedure is to ignore it. Three years ago the department claimed it did not want turbines in national parks. Yet it permits them nearly round their perimeters. The 21 massive WEG MS-3 turbines at Cold Northcott on the Devon-Cornwall border wave madly across two "areas of outstanding

natural beauty" as if determined to strip that phrase of all meaning.

These are government towers. They march across the finest landscapes in Britain not for reasons of national security or economic efficiency. They are trivial as a power source. All the wind farms in Britain today will produce the same amount of power over the next 25 years as one normal power station in three months. If just 10 per cent of Britain's energy were to come from wind turbines, it would require huge subsidies and 24,000 towers on almost every prominent hill in Britain. The towers are follies, monuments to late-Thatcherism's vulnerability to any lobby that pushes at its door.

I find it hard to blame the farmers. They are now addicts wholly dependent on government handouts. When government told them to rip up hedges, they ripped them up. When told to replant, they replanted. Yesterday it was grain and rape-seed. Today it is set-aside and wind towers. Where subsidy goes, there goes the farmer.

Wind towers are patently a mistake, encouraged by politicians in absentia from the British landscape. They testify to the power of public subsidy to do wrong. They are Britain's Chernobyl. Perhaps Labour will have the guts to dismantle them. Dare I say, it would even be worth some compensation.

## Why her will wasn't done

Anthony Howard recalls the Iron Lady's cold war with the Church of England hierarchy

Amid all of John Major's tribulations, one factor is frequently overlooked. Unlike his predecessor, he has faced remarkably little trouble from the Church of England — apart, that is, from those chosen by the BBC to deliver *Thought for the Day*. George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, speaks openly of the Prime Minister as "a friend" — not, one suspects, a formulation that Margaret Thatcher would automatically have reached for to characterise her relationship with Dr Carey's predecessor, Robert Runcie.

It is hard today to summon back the antagonism that existed between the Anglican hierarchy and the Tory Government in the 1980s. For a time, the bench of bishops appeared to supply the sole effective opposition to an administration which, in its Prime Minister's words, wanted to "change everything". But the one institution that she signally failed to change during her 11 years in power was the Anglican Church.

It was certainly not for want of trying. She took her duties to the Church of England very seriously, even going to church at Chequers far more regularly than any of her predecessors. Her first major ecclesiastical appointment was to select Dr Runcie, from the two names submitted to her by the Crown Appointments Commission, to be the 102nd Archbishop of Canterbury. In July 1979, after she had been in office for barely two months, she invited him to Downing Street and, when the then Bishop of St Albans expressed doubts about his qualifications for the job, it was she who considerably told him that he should reflect on her offer over the summer holidays. This he duly did. Six weeks later her patience paid off and Runcie's appointment as Archbishop in succession to Dr Donald Coggan was announced.

They were not strangers to one another. When Margaret Roberts (as she then was) was president of the Oxford University Conservative Association in 1946, Runcie, as a decorated Guards officer re-

turning from the war, had been a member of the association's committee — if only in the slightly peripheral role as the nominated representative of the somewhat offbeat Oxford Carlton Club.

There is no reason to doubt the essential goodwill that existed between No 10 and Lambeth Palace when, in March 1980, Dr Runcie took possession of the See of Canterbury. Why, then, did things so swiftly and abruptly go wrong? In his retirement, living in a modest suburban house in St Albans (a far cry from the formal grandeur of Lambeth or the archaic charm of the Old Palace at Canterbury), Lord Runcie is remarkably candid about what occurred. He believes that from the moment of the Falklands Thanksgiving Service in St Paul's Cathedral in July 1982, when the Church deliberately eschewed any form of triumphalism, he was identified as "an acceptable target" — if not by the Prime Minister (who actually congratulated him at the time on his sermon on the theme of reconciliation), then by her acolytes. That company may even have included Denis Thatcher, who promptly reported to a group of Tory MPs that afternoon: "The boss is livid."

The Falklands service was one of the defining moments in the relationship between Church and State during the Thatcher era. But it was not the only one. The tougher elements in the Tory party were quick to spot the Anglican Church as a weak sister in their crusade to bring trade union power to heel, particularly during the miners' strike of 1984-85. It was not that the Archbishop himself said anything that could be interpreted as bringing aid and comfort to "the enemy within". Indeed, Dr Runcie was far more restrained than Randall Davidson had been in the General Strike of 1926. But the appointment that summer of David Jenkins as Bishop of Durham soon put a spark to the tinder. When Jenkins called, in his enthronement sermon, for the withdrawal of "an elderly, imported American" (meaning Ian McGregor,



Robert Runcie and Margaret Thatcher: no meeting of minds over the Falklands War

chairman of the National Coal Board), even the Tory was seen to have felt that a jihad had been declared.

They were almost certainly wrong. But the Church did not help its supposedly neutral stance by publishing, in the immediate aftermath of the strike, a highly critical report on urban priority areas, entitled *Faith in the City*. This was a serious attempt to look at the problems caused by inner-city decay, something that Michael Heseltine himself had earlier done in his report to the Cabinet on conditions in Liverpool. But by 1985 the political dogs had begun to bark and the caravan had moved on. Even liberal ministers, such as Willie Whitelaw, thought that the Church was dabbling in dangerous waters. Someone (his identity remains unclear) went so far as to brand *Faith in the City*, in advance of publication, as an example of "Marxist theology".

Mrs Thatcher did try to get a dialogue going. In November 1987, she invited the Archbishop and seven other (mainly liberal) bishops to lunch at Chequers. Alas, it did not prove to be an entirely felicitous occasion. The Prime Minister did not listen: instead she lectured. The assembled prelates may have sensed they were being chastised; they do not seem to have felt particularly chastened.

Six months later, insult was added to injury by what became known as "the Sermon on the Mount". Mrs Thatcher's address to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in May 1988. In it she appeared to emphasise choice as a Christian virtue. Worse, she cited with some relish St Paul's dictum: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." It was classic self-help stuff — and John Habgood, Archbishop of York, may have made the wrong response by loftily an-

nouncing that he found the Prime Minister's biblical exegesis "somewhat odd".

By then there was little hope of repairing the breach. It remained wide open until Margaret Thatcher and Robert Runcie each left office — one forcibly, the other voluntarily — within two months of each other in the winter of 1990-91. John Major and George Carey, men of similar backgrounds, may have more obvious achievements to their credit. But one of the hidden ones surely lies in the way in which they have contrived to restore harmony to an area where — to borrow and adapt a famous quotation once used by Mrs Thatcher herself — there used to be only discord.

The author presents a series about the Church of England. The Purple, the Blue and the Red, starting on Radio 4 next Thursday at 8pm and repeated on Sunday at 4.15pm.

## Hark the Tory faithful returning to the fold

The verdict of the local election results for the Government is bad but not disastrous. There will not be a meltdown of the Conservative Party at the next election. In my own constituency, the Liberals lost control of Mole Valley council last year and, despite a visit by Paddy Ashdown, they lost another seat this year. Every Conservative seat was held and the Conservative vote went up. There was the distinct sound of the Tory faithful returning to the fold.

This result will also extinguish the rumours that flared up in Westminster this week about John Major's position. These had been fanned by Tony Blair and there were enough glum Tory faces around to reconfirm the natural tendency of the Lobby to enhance, embellish and exaggerate a mood. There is simply no question of the Prime Minister standing down or being ejected from Downing Street. His position as leader of the party was settled by his re-election of July, 1995.

Those who, for a long time, have wanted John Major to go, now say that the Tories cannot win with him as leader, but that we may have a chance with someone else, or indeed anyone else. For this to come about, certain things would have to happen. Step forward that brave and far-seeing band of men in grey suits who will do the dirty deed. Step forward the voter-friendly candidates.

How fortunate we have so many. Step forward the electoral college of Tory MPs. How fortunate there are still so many. And then step forward the elected winner. Lastly, step forward the men with the bandages and tourniquets.

The Tory party this weekend should come to its senses. For if John Major were to go — either pushed or voluntarily — the country would feel, with some justification, that this issue should not just have been left to the small electoral college of Tory MPs, but to the wider electorate of the whole nation. The clamour for an immediate general election would be strident and irresistible. Those MPs who mutter behind their fluttering hands or whisper from the sides of their mouths about the need for a change and a new leader should realise that they, too, are candidates for such a process of change.

I remember a meeting of the

These results should bring the party to its senses, says Kenneth Baker

1922 Committee, back in the late 1960s, when Ted Heath's leadership was under question. That splendid figure of Tory stability, Rear-Admiral Sir Morgan Miles, MP for Winchester, stood up and said: "No bloody panic, pro bono publico." That message should be repeated today. For the Tory party to turn on its leader in the present circumstances would be like the savaging of a wounded colleague. There is something deeply repugnant and indeed indecent about such behaviour. Cynics may well say: "You have nothing to

In mitigating the Government's unpopularity, Mr Major's stoic virtues are an advantage

lose." But the British people would not forgive a party which sacrificed its leader for the second time in six years.

At this moment in the history of the Tory party, we do not need cynicism or scepticism, but a little stoicism. The Government may be deeply unpopular, but that is not a permanent state of affairs. If we cannot dispel it all, it is certainly possible to mitigate it. The stoic virtues of the Prime Minister are an advantage. He has withstood an avalanche of abuse and he intends to continue and to defend his record. He is rightly proud of the economic success of his Government.

The Government can sensibly do several things. First, it should plan on the basis of being in office until the spring of 1997, with a general election held on local government day next year, May 1, 1997. And, with a little luck and a lot of determination, that is pos-

sible. This will provide the opportunity for a short Queen's Speech and an imaginative Budget which cuts taxes, particularly for the lower-paid. Tony Blair will say the Tories are hanging on by their fingernails, but we are quite entitled to run our term, particularly if it sees the fulfilment of our policies. And that it will certainly do.

On Europe, the Government's policy is now more in tune with the overwhelming sentiments of the country than that of any other party. Only the Conservative Party is standing up for our nation's vital interests. The Liberal Democrats would roll over and Labour would uncritically cosy up to a European superstate, even swallowing the poison pill of the social chapter, just as other European countries are beginning to rewrite that chapter. The frankest and fullest debate on Europe is now taking place within the Conservative Party. That is a sign of maturity, rather than of weakness, for it reflects the growing anxiety across Britain about the way in which the political development of the European Community is moving. The official policy of the Conservative Party is now that of Margaret Thatcher's Bruges speech, and that chimes with public sentiment. The Conservative commitment to a referendum on a single currency makes Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party irrelevant. The voters will have a real choice at the next election, but it will be a choice provided by the three main parties.

On the economic front, Britain has been transformed from the sick man of Europe to a country that everyone wants to follow. The British public may not fully appreciate that, but it is true.

How is new Labour going to improve upon this? If it is time for a change, then do we want to change from low interest rates, from low mortgage rates, from low taxes, from falling unemployment, from increasing exports, and from rising investment? All of these successes would be at risk under new Labour, for Mr Blair has no policies that can improve upon them but several which threaten them. The message which has to be got over in the next 12 months is: new Labour is in danger.

## How galling

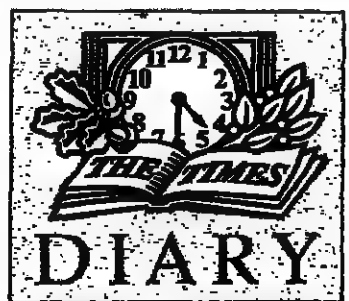
BRITAIN'S greatest living Frenchman has snubbed his President. In a diplomatic faux pas that has left the Gallic corps diplomatique aghast, Eric Cantona has kicked an invitation to meet President Chirac



into touch. Chirac was keenly aware that he could score a public relations coup by being photographed with the footballer during his state visit to Britain later this month. So Cantona, along with Newcastle United's pretty Gallic star David Ginola, was invited to a select party at the French embassy.

To Chirac's disappointment, both players have declined the invitation without explanation. Ginola may already have booked an end-of-season holiday but Cantona's diary must be empty in case of an FA Cup replay that week. "We don't know why they can't come," says a French embassy official. "There's now no chance of the President meeting them on this trip."

Cantona may have declined because he is regarded as an exile in France, where public opinion is sharply divided on his antics. Despite being Britain's Footballer of the Year, he looks unlikely to be



recalled to the French side for the European Championships. "He's just fed up with the French," says an Old Trafford source.

### Old mould

ONE FURTHER manifestation of the decline of the aristocracy comes today from the Queen's cousin, Lord Harewood, a man with a passion for children's jelly. Today he throws open the doors of Harewood House near Leeds for a jelly festival. In a celebration of jelly-making from the 14th century to the present day, the old kitchens at

Harewood have been dusted down for the first time in 50 years. The bearded peer is a quiver with anticipation.

New & Lingwood, shirtmakers to impoverished aristocrats and suppliers of boxer shorts to Prince William and his fellow Etonians, have snapped under fashion's awful pressures. For the first time in their history, they are selling button-down shirts of the sort favoured by American investment bankers.

### Tooth tour

FOR THAT tingle-fresh holiday, nothing can quite compare with Hungary, a country with as much pride invested in its dentists as in its goulash. In a jaw-dropping attempt to lure tourists away from Prague and Bucharest, Hungarian Airtour is for the first time offering dental holidays.

Free consultations and half-price bridge work are thrown in as part of the trip, and dentists collect their petrified patients from the airport. "Hungary has a history of good

dental work," sparkled a spokesman from the travel agents. "There are whole streets of dentists."

### Out of school

HEADMASTERS are furious about the *Sunday Express's* attempts to lure school sneaks out of their traps. The paper is so desperate for stories, any stories, that it is trying to recruit tale-telling school-



A-tingle: the SR toothpaste girl

boys through a discreet advertisement in its pages. The paper asks for marks to feed its stories from any top public school "such as Ampleforth, Eton, Fettes, Harrow, Roedean or Rugby," and some state schools such as the London Oratory, attended by Tony Blair's son Euan, and Harrogate Grammar.

"If someone had a good story on the Oratory or Eton, I'd give them £500 like that," says the *Sunday Express* education correspondent. Six out of the top ten ranked independent schools have complained, calling the advertisement scandalous.

### Royal elbow

THE PRINCESS of Wales escaped the humiliation of being "psychoanalysed" by Channel 4 but she will surely feel the cold blast of public opinion in next month's *Harpers & Queen*.

She doesn't even feature in a forthcoming survey of the "50 most alluring women in the world." A panel nominated the candidates for their subtlety, mystery and attraction. Audrey Hepburn came top



Winner: Audrey Hepburn

and such sirens as Catherine Deneuve and Isabelle Adjani are also highly placed. The Princess was apparently squeezed out by Ruby Wax and the cartoon character Jessica Rabbit.

P.H.S

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## MAJOR POSSIBILITIES

Defeat defeatism and speak to the ideals of Britain

Nobody can pretend that Thursday night's local election results were good news for the Conservatives. Only a party used to the cataclysmic can see a mere disaster as a relief. But at least now there will be no more such tests until the general election. If, through will and leadership, the party can put its bad news and bad behaviour behind it, the Tories may begin the slow trudge back to popularity.

This was clear from the demeanour of the two main party leaders yesterday. John Major, despite the drubbing his side had received, looked relaxed and confident. He told radio listeners that he would remain at his post "through to the next election — and beyond", and at least the first part of that claim now looks set to be true. Tony Blair, meanwhile, the victor of the evening, had nothing new to say, except his rejection of the complacency that among his colleagues is all too visible.

Mr Major's troops need badly now to see that something is going their way. They can still remember the Harman affair and how Mr Blair could be badly rattled. After that rare political gain, Tory MPs started to behave in a more cheerful and disciplined manner, for a short few weeks. They need to regain that composure, and build upon it, to have a chance of steepening their ascent in the opinion polls.

How might that be done? First, those few senior Conservatives who still believe that they have a chance of winning the election — John Major, Michael Heseltine, Brian Mawhinney, perhaps a few others — must persuade more MPs to share this faith. Defeatism, which is now endemic even in the Cabinet, is the main enemy of political recovery. Voters can sense it instantly in ministers' faces, words and deeds.

There are glimmers of hope that optimists can reasonably extract from the pattern of voting on Thursday. Labour's share of the vote, at 44 per cent, was some ten points below what the party scores in opinion polls. Labour has clearly not yet offered the electorate good enough positive reasons for support. It can be said that some Labour

attrition was inevitable because the Liberal Democrats always perform better in local elections than in national polls. But most of the extra Liberal Democrat votes seem to have come from Labour rather than the Tories, whose share was on a par with their national poll rating. The high Lib Dem vote could be a symptom of intelligent tactical voting against the Government. But it could also show that much of the anti-Tory vote was a single act of protest.

Secondly, the Tory inner circle must take advantage of some harder months ahead for Mr Blair. The policies that Labour has yet to decide are the most contentious ones, those likeliest to cause rebellions in his ranks. The Tories need to extract maximum gain from this: before he announces his plans, they can exploit his uncertainty; afterwards they can whip up dissent and, in doing so, spread the confidence of the innermost circle to the Tory troops at large.

Thirdly, and this has always been the hardest task for Mr Major, he must find a firmer appeal to that idealist side of the British character so dismissed by European leaders such as Karl Lamers in his letter on this page today and in his article in *The Times* last week. Herr Lamers, like many senior Germans, divides views of Europe into his own objective "supranational reality" and others' "subjective consciousness" of their national identity. Mr Major, ever happy when deriding idealistic notions as "cloud cuckoo land", too often sounds like Herr Lamers. Tory voters would rather that he did not.

The Conservatives can improve their position only by pounding out their support for a Europe of nations and the peril of Labour ceding the last British sovereignty to Brussels. If members of his party cannot agree on exactly what they are for, most ought to agree upon what they are against. Although the Tories remain outsiders to win the next election, they should not write off the possibility. To do so would be bad for immediate British governance, bad for what remains of their electoral hopes and even bad for Mr Blair's modernisation of Labour.

## BALANCE IN JUSTICE

The next Lord Chief Justice should seek to consolidate

Since his appointment four years ago, the Lord Chief Justice has shown himself a brave fighter for his profession and his principles. As Lord Taylor of Gosforth draws on that courage for the struggle with cancer which has prompted his early retirement, he can be assured of respect and support from both his political critics and the judiciary whose reputation he has worked so hard to bolster.

Lord Taylor inherited his job at a low point for the judiciary. His predecessor, Lord Lane, had presided over a decline in public faith in the criminal justice system after the quashing of the convictions of the Birmingham Six and Guildford Four. Maladroitness in the handling of their appeals had led to the establishment of the first royal commission for more than a decade. It also contributed to a widespread feeling that judges, although they must remain independent, should be a little nearer the agora than Olympus.

Lord Taylor had demonstrated sure-footedness during the inquiry into the Hillsborough disaster and was determined to bring the operation, and thinking, of judges closer to the people. In stark contrast to Lord Lane he held press conferences, granted interviews and even appeared on the BBC's *Question Time*. His personal candour and wisdom were applauded and contributed to a better understanding of the process of justice. In his efforts as Lord Chief Justice to modernise his profession, Lord Taylor has not always trod as cautiously as his more conservative members might like. But he has displayed a confidence, integrity and intelligence which command respect.

There have been criticisms of the Taylor glasnost. Lord Donaldson of Lynton, a

former Master of the Rolls, has counselled caution. The traditional view, articulated by Lord Parker of Waddington in 1967, was that judges should make their views known in private consultation, not on public stages and that any involvement in political debate could only undermine judicial independence and contribute to an erosion of authority. The fierce dispute over sentencing policy between Lord Taylor, and the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, has certainly led to a backlash against the judiciary from Conservative critics in Parliament and press.

But there is no doubt that Lord Taylor speaks for the majority of his profession. His entry into political controversy was designed to see off what judges saw as an unwarranted extension of the executive's power in their domain. We have disagreed with some of Lord Taylor's arguments, but in making them he has provided a reasoned opposition to change that few politicians have been willing to supply.

Although in many ways a moderniser, Lord Taylor has resisted the unhappier forms of modernity. He has opposed racial or gender quotas for either judges or juries and stood out against televising courts. The task for his successor is to consolidate the changes already made and provide a measure of stability on the Bench. Another institution which benefited initially from greater openness, MIS, has opted for a lower profile in its new director to provide reassurance after Stella Rimington's reforms. The essence of law is balance — justice tempered by mercy. Just as Lord Taylor balanced Lord Lane, so now a new Lord Chief Justice should steer his profession away from the sound of gunfire.

## FRENCH FOOTWORK

A tricky ball in Chirac's court

Who, in British eyes, is the greatest living Frenchman? An actor — a Depardieu, perhaps? Or maybe a philosopher — even if only Derrida springs commonly to mind. The British imagination could also seize on Sylvie Guillem, who has brought so much to the Royal Ballet, or even Jacques Delors, the Eurocrat we loved to hate.

One man, however, is seen to embody all their talents. He even lives on our own shores. Step forward Eric Cantona, the one Gallic soul whose British admirers can be counted in their millions. Here is the man who must surely be honoured by President Chirac in ten days' time as his country's real ambassador to Britain. But there are snags.

As President Chirac plans his state visit, the Elysée, the Quai d'Orsay, the French Embassy and all those charged with adding élan to the trip have been wondering how the great footballer can be pictured together with the President. But state visits have their own rigid protocol. Banquets. When could M Chirac find time to give the great man a hearty embrace, exchange a few locker-room jokes or josh the ambulant philosopher (not too severely, the aides advise, lest a piquant remark provokes another drop-kick)?

Surely, then, invite M Cantona to the embassy reception for Britain's French community? But Cantona is not M Chirac's

favourite football export. He and his countrymen, it seems, are prouder of David Ginola, the Newcastle United player. For them, he is the suaver, smarter, more stylish Frenchman, a man who played for a Paris team when M Chirac was the capital's Mayor. France sniffs at Cantona's childhood spent in a cave outside Marseille and laughs at television's satirical puppet portrayal of a latter-day Picasso spouting meaningless intellectual drivel. Only les Anglais, they say, who cannot tell the difference between a Cartesian principle and an artesian well, prefer the troglodyte.

Both would have to be invited. But then the second snag occurs: a cocktail party is not the natural stalking ground for British tabloid photographers. The meeting would have to be arranged in a more public place. How about a serendipitous encounter during one of the President's walkabouts?

All these machinations, however, have hit an insuperable obstacle: neither footballer seems interested in meeting his President. Both have turned down the embassy soirée; both have hinted they will be nowhere near the Chirac luncheon. Such *l'es-majesté* would once have occasioned a reprimand more deadly than anything handed down by a British court: nowadays M Chirac can only ask his aides to try harder.

## The nation state as seen from Bonn

From Herr Karl Lamers

Sir, Great Britain is in the midst of a fundamental debate on her position in — or her relation to — Europe. This can be useful, if in the end it leads to clarity. In his response to my article of April 27, "Beyond the nation state", William Rees-Mogg has argued his case (April 29; see also letters, May 1 and 3) and it is very clear indeed.

Lord Rees-Mogg agrees with my analysis that the Euro-sceptics deal with the inner, subjective reality of the consciousness (as opposed to the objective external reality). He shares my reference to Britain's island status and he elaborates on the different historical experiences of our two countries.

Obviously counting himself as one of the "more hardline Euro-sceptics in Britain" he concludes from the differences in views, perceptions and political culture in Britain and in Germany that Britain should "step aside" and create a new, friendly but independent relationship with Europe.

I do not know whether it would be good for Britain to do that. William Rees-Mogg's entire article devotes not a single word to what I called the objective, external reality.

Sir Roy Denman and Mr Stephen Woodard, in their letters of May 1, pointed to the economic prosperity and the political influence Britain gains from her membership in the European Union. In Sir Roy's book, *Missed Chances*, an American diplomat is quoted as saying that British influence in Washington is contingent upon British influence in Europe. I would even go one step further: no European power is any longer able to protect her vital interests acting on her own.

The objective reality includes a supranational reality with supranational problems and supranational threats. The nation state can no longer sufficiently protect the nation against these threats. This does not mean the nation state should be abolished or replaced. It just needs something else, another community on a higher level, added to it.

The objective reality calls for an effective European Union. If we make the European Union capable of acting against the cross-border threats to our nations, then (and I think only then) can we secure the future and thus the identity of our nations.

It is for the British to decide which of the two realities they want to be guided by when they choose and design their room in the European house. The others have a right to expect a choice to be made, but they will then have to respect it. The future EU will have to allow for different degrees of integration. But I hope the British join those who are determined to try to make Europe efficient enough to protect the common interests of our nations.

Yours faithfully,  
KARL LAMERS  
(Foreign Affairs Spokesman,  
Christian Democratic Union,  
Bundestag, AH214,  
53113 Bonn,  
May 3.

## Lottery licence

From the Director General of the National Lottery

Sir, Of course I was aware, when I took my decision to award the lottery licence to Camelot in May 1994, that the two people referred to in your report today ("Daring breaks silence on lottery concerns") worked for GTEch.

The substance of this latest instalment of your criticism of my role as the regulator of the National Lottery, therefore, is only that I did not have total recall, before the Public Accounts Committee on December 11, 1995, of what I had known, in May 1994, about all eight applicants for the operating licence and their employees or prospective employees.

For the record, I undertook vetting procedures on some 1,300 individuals and 230 companies in connection with the evaluation of applications for the licence to run the National Lottery.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER DAVIS,  
Director General,  
Office of the National Lottery,  
2 Monck Street, SW1,  
May 3.

## Coastguard dispute

From Mr Graham Allen, MP for Nottingham North (Labour)

Sir, The Government's cuts in the coastguard service (report, April 29) are another example of its inherent myopia. By leaving the coastguard under-skilled and under-resourced the Government is asking for disaster.

But it is not only lives and our beautiful coastline that are in jeopardy: the Government is also risking clean-up bills of millions. Surely it is in the public interest to have the sensible insurance policy of an adequate number of coastguard stations around our coastline with properly trained staff to avoid accidents like that of the *Sea Empress*.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM ALLEN  
(Shadow Minister for Transport),  
House of Commons,  
April 29.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Farm food and the length and quality of human life

From the Honorary Secretary of the Farm and Food Society

Sir, There are points in Michael Hornsby's article, "Why caged birds may be happier" (April 30), which need questioning.

"If we are living longer and healthier lives than ever before," writes Mr Hornsby, "it is in large part because of the huge increase in the supply of high-quality and relatively inexpensive food made possible by modern fertilisers and pesticides." The operative word is "if": we may be kept alive longer due to medical technology and drugs but the value of life needs to be assessed on quality rather than length.

The Food Commission came into being precisely because of the inferiority of much of our food production, while there is now an important movement to restrict the use of agrochemicals because their dangers are recognised. The full cost of our "inexpensive" food, including environmental pollution, grants and subsidies to farmers, or cruelty to animals, is never taken into consideration by those who assess it by retail prices.

"The cooking and handling of food is a far bigger cause of food poisoning than farming." Cooking and handling of food do not in themselves produce toxic bacteria, some of which are generated on the farm, and have greatly increased since the introduction of factory-farming.

"Most deaths (of non-battery laying hens) are associated with the stress induced by exposure to an uncontrolled environment." Laying birds are so genetically engineered that they are only adapted to continual egg-laying in unnatural conditions. Broiler birds bred to produce meat at the cost of

their proper development cannot survive long outside the hothouse conditions of the broiler-house. This does not indicate "happiness" in intensive conditions. Machines are incapable of happiness.

Yours faithfully,  
JOANNE BOWER,  
Honorary Secretary,  
The Farm and Food Society,  
4 Willifield Way, NW11,  
May 1.

From Mr Ian Stirling

Sir, Dr Thomas Stuttaford ("A medical case for meat", April 30) must think I am in a parlous state of health, since he states that vitamin B12, "essential for the production of blood", is found only in meat and animal products; yet with the exception of occasional dairy products, which I have decreasingly eaten during the last five years or so, I have eaten almost no bits of animals since the end of the Second World War.

How is it that at the age of 76 I can (in most cases) easily outdo most of my contemporaries in physical fitness and agility? The idea that cooked muscles of factory-reared animals will provide a healthy bloodstream does not make sense to me.

Rightly or wrongly, I no longer drink cow's milk, but soya milk instead. French butter does occasionally tempt me, but at least most French cows are allowed to live in fields.

As for the farmers' views in an accompanying article that "the farming revolution has done far more good than harm", I would rejoice that people may now live longer, but question just how healthy they are.

Cruelty to animals is often ignored, provided profits are to be had from ex-

plotting them, regardless of disease and degeneration, as eloquently explained by Juliet Gellatley in her piece on broiler houses.

Meat-eating has had its day. The planet could perhaps sustain over six billion inhabitants on a vegan diet, far more than its present population — many of whom starve with 30 per cent of what they consume coming from animal sources.

Yours sincerely,  
IAN STIRLING,  
32 Powis Gardens, NW11,  
May 1.

From Lord Elliott of Morpeth

Sir, Having read your disturbing article, "Scenes of the slaughter", April 29, may I make the following points?

I very much hope that the slaughterman filmed torturing a sow, before inadequately dispatching it, has been identified and at the very least severely reprimanded.

Secondly, the report of a consignment of lambs arriving at the same slaughterhouse and having their throats cut without being stunned, is surely a contravention of existing law. I hope action has been taken on this.

Reports of cruelty in abattoirs abroad have often been publicised. It is deplorable to learn of such occurrences in a British abattoir.

Slaughter should be as humane as possible and certainly carried out according to existing law.

Yours faithfully,  
ELLIOTT  
(Chairman, Select Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1989-93)),  
House of Lords,  
April 30.

## Search for peace in the Middle East

From Mr David Leigh

Sir, You report (May 1) that the Israeli Government is considering overtures made to it by Hezbollah which imply that the Islamic militants will recognise Israel in return for an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

It is anathema to the vast majority of nation states that they should make concessions in terms of security in order merely to achieve recognition (whatever that may, in fact, mean). However, the fact that Israel finds itself forced to contemplate such action indicates the lengths to which Shimon Peres will go to attain a peaceful settlement. It also indicates that all those purporting to aspire to a peaceful Middle East should support him in the forthcoming election.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID LEIGH,  
65 Eton Avenue, NW3,  
May 1.

From Mr Herb Greer

Sir, What Patrick Seale (letter, April 27) leaves out of his anti-Israeli tirade is a simple fact: since the founding of Israel the Arab countries surrounding it (now joined by Iran) have directed their best efforts toward the genocidal destruction of Israel.

With Anwar Sadat leading the way, a few, a very few, of the leaders among Arabs have been brought to see that this is a stupid, futile, and often lethal enterprise. I stress the word "leaders" because that insight has dawned on so few among the non-Israeli populations of the region. And leaders in the Arab world, as we have seen in the decades since 1948, are dangerously disposable.

The Protector also ordered the demolition of St Margaret's, Westminster; but when the work began the parishioners attacked the workmen with bows and arrows and clubs, and the workmen all ran away. Having brought his own brother to the block in 1549, Somerset was himself executed.

The iconoclasts were luckier, and died in their beds. But the harm they did was irreparable.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN JOLLIFFE,  
Church House, Chesterblade,  
Shepton Mallet, Somerset,  
May 1.

## Openness on defence

From Rear-Admiral J. P. W. Middleton

Sir, The RAF is to leave Germany (reports, May 2). No great concern there, except surprise at the funeral pace of the drumbeat of retreat. What vital task will the RAF undertake in Germany for the next six years that suddenly evaporates in 2002?

What is of concern, however, is the optimistic atmosphere that accompanies each and every announcement of yet another in the continuous sequence of death by a thousand cuts. The Ministry of Defence's bland reassurances may pacify elements of the electorate, but they certainly do not reflect the views of the majority of servicemen.

Some retired officers do their best to articulate warnings but, in the absence of an effective briefing system, they can seldom deploy all the relevant arguments with sufficient force to frighten the horses; and they may, sometimes legitimately, be dismissed as "yesterday's men".

A clear priority in these days of more open government is to scrap the archaic gagging order which prevents serving officers from communicating with the media on matters of defence policy. It is unsatisfactory for the MoD to shelter behind the Official Secrets Act and, uniquely, to deny its expert practitioners the chance to speak up.

Only when the MoD's cheery spin-doctors are supplemented by the clearer, truer and less comfortable views of serving officers will the nation begin to learn of the Armed Forces' real state and direction.

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK MIDDLETON,  
Manora,  
Chilmark, Wiltshire,  
May 2.

## Youth violence

From Professor R. T. D. Oliver

Sir, With the advertisements for the film *Barb Wire*, with Baywatch star Pamela Anderson Lee being used to brainwash society with Hollywood's obsession that women should behave like men and use guns and killing as a solution to all perceived unfairness, I suppose we shouldn't be surprised by the events that led to the death of a 13-year-old schoolgirl in Corby recently (reports, May 1, 2).

Yours sincerely,  
TIM OLIVER,  
86 Cambridge Gardens, W10,  
May 2.

From Mr H. J. Baker

Sir, For many years films and television have featured violent fights in which the participants apparently suffer only slight and temporary damage. Moreover, many computer games, with which it seems a large number of children are obsessed, contain extreme violence which affects the victims not a whit.

It is not surprising therefore that many children seem to be unaware of the possible effects of violence in real life. We cannot turn back the clock; but may we hope that parents and schools will now take the necessary action to educate children about the likely results of violent attack.

Yours faithfully,  
H. J. BAKER,  
8 Grovelands,  
Lower Bourne, Farnham, Surrey,  
May 2.

## Churches' destruction

From Mr John Jolliffe

Sir, Like many misguided and destructive people, the iconoclasts of the Civil War (letters, April 20 and 27) were at least painfully sincere, unlike the hitmen of Henry VIII a century earlier. Nor did they destroy whole churches.

By contrast, Edward Seymour, Protector and Duke of Somerset from 1547 to 1552, not only stole and pulled down the London houses of three bishops in order to glorify himself by building Somerset House; he also pulled down St John's, Smithfield; Barking Chapel, near the Tower; the college church of St Martin-le-Grand; St Ewan's, Newgate; and the parish church of St Nicholas.

The Protector also ordered the demolition of St Margaret's, Westminster; but when the work began the parishioners attacked the workmen with bows and arrows and clubs, and the workmen all ran away. Having brought his own brother to the block in 1549, Somerset was himself executed.

The iconoclasts were luckier, and died in their beds. But the harm they did was irreparable.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN JOLLIFFE,  
Church House, Chesterblade,  
Shepton Mallet, Somerset,  
May 1.

## Real hymns

From the Reverend Dr Ian Bradley

Sir, David Wright is not the first person to propose a campaign for real hymns (report, April 22). I launched a similar crusade three years ago with the acronym CATCH (Campaign for Traditional Church Hymns). There is also a group based in Sheffield who go by the name of SERAPH (The Society for the Encouragement, Recital and Appreciation of Proper Hymns). Perhaps we should amalgamate.

Meanwhile, to Mr Wright I say, or rather sing: Courage, brother, do not stumble; say not "the struggle nought availeth"; and, above all, fight the good fight.

Yours etc.  
IAN BRADLEY,  
University of Aberdeen,  
Department of Theology and Church History,  
King's College, Old Aberdeen,  
April 24.

## Brought to book

From Professor Denis Stevens

Sir, Requiring a brief extension to my reader's ticket, I (75) was ordered by the Punishment Department of the British Library to walk half a mile to a remote kiosk, which took four bad photographs and 2½ pounds sterling. Mercifully it was not pouring with rain. When I returned, the PD used only two of the photos, thus wasting £1.25.

It seems to me that if an official body demands a photograph, a suitable apparatus must be provided under its own roof. The Bodleian Library in Oxford does so. In case your readers consider this an isolated case, they may be interested to know that similar treatment was meted out to a lady reader who shared my objection and pointed out that we had both been obliged to waste half an afternoon, as well as lose a quarter of a fiver.

Shame on the British Library, once a happy haven of help for scholars.

Yours etc.  
DENIS STEVENS,  
The Quadrangle,  
Morden College, Blackheath, SE3,  
May 2.







**PETER SWALES**



